

Human rights abuses strain American-Turkish relations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Escalating human rights abuses and widespread use of torture in Turkey are seriously straining relations with the United States, a senior American official reports.

"The strain that is felt with respect to these issues is felt throughout the relationship... especially in Congress," the official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Last Thursday, the semi-military state security court in Ankara convicted eight Kurdish parliamentarians of assisting members of the illegal Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and sentenced them to jail terms ranging from 3½ to 15 years.

The State Department expressed its deep concern over the case while U.S. legislators and human rights activists denounced the sentences as politically motivated.

Turkey played an important role as a staging area during the Gulf war and in international efforts to keep the Iraqi army at bay in the mainly Kurdish areas of northern Iraq.

But despite this, Congress voted last summer to withhold 10 per cent of U.S. military aid designated for Turkey because of human rights abuse. The incoming, Republican-dominated Congress may cut military assistance even further, the official said.

Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck cited the indictment last week of Yavuz Onen, a leader of Turkey's human rights organisation, and the sentencing last month of Mehmet Ali Birand, a prominent journalist, as evidence of a worsening human rights situation.

"We're concerned about a number of examples where internationally recognised freedom of speech has been curtailed in Turkey through prosecutions," Mr. Shattuck told reporters Monday.

Some 13,000 people are believed to have died so far in the decade-old conflict between security forces and independence-minded Kurdish guerrillas in southeastern Turkey. Kurds are estimated to account for a fifth of Turkey's 60 million people.

International human rights groups have reported that the Turkish army and police routinely torture suspects arrested in the region, a charge confirmed by the U.S. official.

"We've heard disturbing reports about the fact that almost everybody arrested under the security laws and the anti-terrorism laws faces torture, particularly so in the southeast," he said.

Although the United States supported Turkey's struggle against terrorism, it would not continue tolerating torture abuses much longer, the official said.

Japan reluctant to send troops to Golan Heights Rabin to visit S. Korea today

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan is reluctant to join a U.N. peacekeeping mission in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights because of the high risks, Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said Tuesday.

Mr. Kono, quoted by Kyodo news agency, said most of the cabinet last week spoke out against sending a team to the contested area next week to pave the way for such a mission.

Government spokesman Kojo Igarashi, meanwhile, told reporters that no decision had been taken about a Japanese presence in the Golan, which has been under Israeli occupation since 1967.

The United Nations has asked Japan to take responsibility for a number of logistical tasks in the Heights currently carried out by Canadian peacekeepers, who are part of the U.N. observation force there.

Mr. Kono said he would consult the Japanese defence agency (ministry) and the prime minister's office before coming to any decision.

Transport Minister Shizuka Kamei, also quoted by Kyodo, criticised Mr. Kono. He said the foreign minister was "taking for granted" that Japan would take part in all U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Interior Minister Hiromu Nonaka added that the Japanese public would not support sending troops to an area still in conflict, and where certain countries are selling weapons.

Japan sent 470 troops to Goma, Zaire, in September to help the aid distribution effort for Rwandan refugees in a mission that is not under U.N. auspices. They are scheduled to return by the end of the year.

Previous Japanese peacekeeping mission under the U.N. banner have been sent to Mozambique and Cambodia.

A law adopted in 1992 authorises the dispatch of Japanese troops abroad, but only on non-combatant missions to areas where a ceasefire has been reached.

On Monday, the Japanese government reaffirmed its commitment, to visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, that Japan would continue to support the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Rabin will Wednesday end his three-day visit to Japan and start an official visit to South Korea.

Mr. Rabin's four-day visit to South Korea, a first by Israeli prime minister, is aimed at enhancing economic ties and technology tie-ups in the wake of Middle East peace accord.

The visit is a first in three decades of bilateral ties, including a 15-year hiatus until 1992 when Israel struck the peace accord with the Palestinians.

"We have brains but have little means to produce," Israeli Ambassador Asher Naim said, adding that a marriage between Israeli technology and expertise and South Korea's industrial might would benefit both countries.

"Israel and South Korea can cooperate to invest in other countries, including Vietnam, China and other Asian countries... Israel can provide hi-tech for such projects," he said.

Bilateral trade has almost tripled since 1990. Two-way trade in 1993 jumped 50 per cent to \$275 million.

For the first nine months of

September, South Korea's exports more than doubled to \$220 million, thanks mainly to \$70 million of car exports, while Israeli exports to South Korea climbed 15 per cent to \$150 million.

Beside possible industrial cooperation, Israel is willing to offer agricultural technology, which he said would make South Korean farming more efficient and competitive in the world market.

During his stay here, Mr. Rabin will hold talks with President Kim Young-Sam Thursday, focusing on economic and technology cooperation and the security situation in both the Middle East and in Korea.

They will then sign two agreements on aviation and culture. The aviation agreement will lead to the opening of a direct air link between Seoul and Tel Aviv in the first half of next year.

Mr. Rabin, who is also defence minister, will meet with Defence Minister Rhee Byoung-Tae, on Friday.

Asked to comment on whether Mr. Rabin and Mr. Rhee will discuss cooperation in the defence industry, including South Korea's buying of Israeli weapons, the Israeli ambassador said: "Everything will be open to discussion."

He went extra miles to deny reports that Israel had in March resumed secret talks with North Korea to stop the Stalinist country from exporting missiles to the Middle East, a subject widely expected to be raised during this visit.

"We're deeply concerned over the sales of sophisticated arms, including SCUD missiles, by North Korea to very dangerous countries, such as Iran, Iraq and Syria."



HAMAS PROTEST: Young masked members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, clashed at Palestine Mosque on Nov. 18, burning an Israeli flag Tuesday in the Shati camp. Hamas will celebrate Wednesday the anniversary of its foundation (AFP photo)

Sfeir denounces corruption in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's top Catholic churchman Cardinal Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir added his voice to criticism of corruption in public life, saying it was sapping the confidence of the Lebanese in their country.

Cardinal Sfeir, patriarch of the Maronite Church, was the first religious leader to speak out on a series of corruption scandals that are shaking Lebanon's political establishment.

His statement was published Tuesday, a day after an MP levelled bribery and influence-peddling accusations at billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and Minister of State for Finance Fuad Siniora.

Newspapers quoted Cardinal Sfeir as telling Catholic parishes and bishops at a conference Monday he felt bitterness and pain whenever Lebanon asked his advice on whether to emigrate.

"What shakes one's confidence in the country is the behaviour of the authorities that we are witnessing, the extortions that are being spoken of, the deals, and the suffering, degradation and blatant violations of human rights which many citizens suffer," Cardinal Sfeir said.

Muslim religious leaders have been silent since scandals began breaking Nov. 24 when MP Yahya Shamas linked a son of President Elias Hrawi, unnamed MPs, an unnamed businessman, a prominent businessman and 10 airline pilots with drug dealing.

Mr. Shamas, whose parliamentary immunity was lifted on the same day he made the accusations, is currently held in connection to charges of drug dealing.

Mr. Shamas' allegations are being investigated by prosecutors. Since then MP Najib Wakim has said political corruption — bribery, influence peddling and tax fraud — are more widespread than drug dealing.

Mr. Wakim gave three hours of closed testimony to a financial prosecutor Monday and told journalists he named Mr. Hariri and Mr. Siniora among other public figures.

Financial prosecutor Ahmad Takiyeddine said the allegations would be investigated.

In a third scandal, President Hrawi has sent prosecutors documents to back up his public charge that former Prime Minister Omar Karami and former parliament speaker Hussein Hussein misappropriated the value of private property purchases they made to avoid taxes.

Hrawi has said that anyone committing such offences in any other country would be jailed.

3 policemen killed in southern Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Unidentified gunmen shot dead three policemen in Egypt's southern tourist province of Luxor, the Interior Ministry said Tuesday.

A ministry official said the gunmen attacked a police station on the outskirts of the village of Nazari Al Aish just after sunset Monday, killing Sergeant Hassan Mohammad Al Sayid and two guards, Saad Muawwad and Ahmad Abdul Basit.

The gunmen escaped after the shooting, the official said.

He did not say who was believed responsible for the attack, but the militant Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), which aims to overthrow the government and install a purist Islamist state, has been targeting policemen regularly in the south.

More than 500 people, mainly militants and policemen, have been killed in Egypt since the Gama'a launched its campaign of violence in March 1992.

The attacks have hit Egypt's vital tourist industry hard, scaring visitors away from Pharaonic Nile valley sites and depriving the country of much-needed revenue.

Cairo youths groove to Israeli transsexual's hits

CAIRO (AFP) — Songs by an Israeli transsexual have become the hottest hits on the Cairo youth scene, despite being banned by the censor, very expensive and obtainable only with a special sign and code word.

The female singer, Dana International, "uses words with sexual connotations from the dregs of Egyptian society simply for commercial gain and to pervert young people," says Farouq Salem, a senior official on the board of censors.

"The cassettes are still being circulated because youngsters make copies and traders sell them under the counter, despite the seizure of thousands of recordings."

The song Saidia Sultana was a smash hit in Israel last year. Dana International, a transsexual of Yemeni origin, sings it in a mixture of Arabic, Hebrew and English.

Cassette recordings reached the Egyptian black market via the Rafah border post between Egypt and the autonomous Gaza Strip, according to the head of the board of censors, Atef Monsef.

Copies are sold for 35 Egyptian pounds (about \$10), compared with seven pounds for other cassettes.

The recordings can only be obtained by giving a special sign at a music kiosk in one of Cairo's residential districts and saying the code word "Sousou," from the Arabic verse of the song.

Handing over the money, the purchaser has to reveal his or her name and profession. The seller then shouts out a password to a colleague, who keeps the cassettes at a secret warehouse far from the store to avoid trouble with the authorities.

"The state security service checks up on us because it's not just a matter of censorship — Israel is involved, too," says one trader.

Amazed that the cassettes of Dana International have been judged "perverse and obscene" by the authorities Jacob Setty, Israeli cultural attaché in Cairo, says his country is nevertheless not planning to protest over the ban.

"Egypt is a free country and has the right to seize this cassette, which has become contraband," Mr. Setty says, adding that all Israeli cassettes are contraband in Egypt because there is no official importer.

Inji azmy, an 18-year-old student at Cairo's American University, is hooked on the banned songs.

"I love the rhythm of the music, even though I can only understand a few words, when she says in Arabic Sousou, lovely Sousou."

Her brother Rafik, 14, says he finds "nothing obscene" in the song Saidia Sultana. He adds that he did not know it was sung by a transsexual.

"True, it's sung in a provocative way, but you listen to it mainly for the music, which makes you want to dance."

Saidia Sultana is now top of the hit parade in Cairo and a firm favourite at discos. Young Egyptians also play it at full blast as they drive through the city streets.

NEWS IN BRIEF

22 people wounded in bus collision

BEIRUT (AP) — A bus carrying students to school collided Tuesday with a car in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, wounding 20 children and two drivers. Lebanon's official radio station said the accident occurred near the village of Rafid, 9 kilometres northwest of the Bekaa town of Rashaya. The station said five of the children were in serious condition. It said the injured students were 15 years old or younger. Police have issued warnings to civilians to drive carefully on icy mountain roads following a succession of storms that have dumped a large quantity of snow on most high-altitude villages.

Egyptian population to soar

CAIRO (AFP) — The burgeoning Egyptian population will soar to 76.72 million by the year 2007, a rise of almost 16 million, a government minister told Tuesday's Al Akhbar newspaper. The overcrowded capital Cairo, which hosted the U.N. world population conference in September, will be home to 17 million people by the year 2000 and 40 million in 2025, added Maher Mahrane, minister of state for population and family affairs, in a rundown of the country's birth explosion. The Cairo city infrastructure, designed to cope with five million people, is already creaking under the present population of 14 million. President Hosni Mubarak has repeatedly warned that population growth was undermining government efforts to develop the country, but birth control programmes have run up against deep rooted social and religious customs. A child is born every 23 seconds according to official statistics.

Rape cases up in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — The number of rape cases in Lebanon has more than tripled in five years, while complaints of rape of minors have increased 30-fold, the justice ministry said Tuesday. There have been more than 6,000 rape cases in court this year, compared to less than 2,000 in 1990. Cases of rape against young girls, which numbered 127 in 1990, stand at 2,421 this year, while reports of rape of young boys has risen from 39 to 612 in the same period. Legal officials explained the rise by the return to normal of the judicial system and a return of confidence in the law, following the end of the 1975-1990 civil war. During the war women were reluctant to report rapists, often soldiers, or take legal action against them. Under Lebanese law, those found guilty of rape face hard labour for stretches up to 15 years. In April a man was hanged for the first time since 1983, for the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl.

Wreckage of French WWII sub found

BEIRUT (AP) — A diver has discovered the wreckage of a French submarine sunk by the British Navy during World War II off the coast of Lebanon, a newspaper reported Tuesday. Walid Noshie, an avid underwater diver, told As-Safir newspaper in an interview that "a very rich underwater museum" was scattered off Lebanon's 130-mile (210-kilometre) Mediterranean coastline. He said he and a group of divers also have come across remains of ancient Phoenician and Greek ships off the port cities of Tyre in the south, Beirut and Byblos in the centre, and Tripoli in the north. The wreckage of the French World War II sub Souffleur was resting in 38-metre (115-foot) deep waters off the coast of south Beirut's Khalde suburb. Mr. Noshie told the newspaper. The boat was under the command of France's Vichy government, which sided with Nazi Germany after the surrender of France to Adolf Hitler. A torpedo from a British warship in June 1941 split the sub in two, killing all but four of its 55 crew members. "It is a unique piece because it is still in good shape and the bodies of the crew are still there," the newspaper quoted Mr. Noshie as saying. He said he was the only one to enter the submarine. Mr. Noshie also said he knows of a British Royal Navy warship that sank off the port of Byblos north of Beirut, according to As-Safir. The flagship HMS Victoria broke up and sank in 130 metres (400 feet) waters off the coast in 1911. All 430 sailors aboard were killed. The ship also carried 300 bronze canons. Mr. Noshie said he had been unable to reach the Victoria because he lacks the proper equipment.

4 injured in Istanbul blast

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Four people were injured Tuesday by a bomb placed outside an Istanbul toy store, five hours after a similar explosion killed one person and injured another, the Anatolia news agency reported. The two blasts occurred in a tourist neighbourhood and have not been claimed by any organisation. A person was killed and another wounded early Tuesday as they tried to plant a bomb in a car parked outside a mosque in the Beyazit district, Anatolia said. The car targeted by the two men belonged to an Islamic publishing house, police said.

Woman driver released from British base

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot woman driver, who challenged Britain's rule over military outposts in Cyprus, was released from custody at a base police station Tuesday after she posted bail in a traffic case. Maria Kashiour of Ayios Thomas village, accused of crossing a "no overtaking" double-white line, appeared Monday before a court in the sovereign base area of Episkopi in southwest Cyprus but said she did not recognise British jurisdiction and would not post bail of 15 Cyprus pounds (\$30). But after spending the night in custody, Ms. Kashiour signed bail "on her own recognition for 15 Cyprus pounds." British bases spokesman Major Robert Shaw told Reuters. He said she will appear before court again Jan. 11. "She is being charged with a traffic offence... our traffic laws are almost identical to Cypriot ones," Maj. Shaw added.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Tao-Tao
17:30	Thalassa/Magazine
18:30	Musique Sans Frontiers
19:00	News in French
19:45	E=M6
19:50	Coach
20:30	Law and Order
21:10	News in English
22:00	Snowy River
22:10	Coming of Age
PRAYER TIMES	
04:59	Fajr
06:30	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:30	Dhuhr
14:14	Asr
16:38	Maghrib
18:00	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terressantia Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771251	
Armenian International Church Tel. 635236	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 644932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bullets supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures will rise further with winds westerly light to moderate. In Agaba, it will be sunny with winds northerly moderate to active and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp. 4/15	
Amman 8/23	
Agaba 8/23	
Descents 9/21	
Jordan Valley 9/21	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13 Agaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent. Agaba 43 per cent.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Bahjat Bader	839362
Dr. Arif Al Ashab	602507
Dr. Sa'id Ali	788285
Dr. Yaba Abdul Salam	736972
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	625672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmoukhi pharmacy	637660
Natroukh pharmacy	625672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Hila	279773
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ziyad J'atim	(—)
Khalid pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	60321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Amman Municipality	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Aklich Maternity, J. Amn	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845045
Amal Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Abli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajres	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	771112/6
Army, SMarka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602340/50
Amal Hospital	667227/9
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)983323
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)980560
Al Hikma Hospital	(09)980560
IBRD:	
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)75555
Creek Catholic Hospital	(02)72275
Al Nafes Hospital	(02)747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	
ARRIVALS	
International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:45	Agaba (RJ)
08:35	Jeddah (RJ)
08:55	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:05	Larnaca (RJ)
14:30	
Singapore, Jakarta, Dubai (add)	
15:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
16:35	London (RJ)
16:45	Istanbul (RJ)
18:00	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:00	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:10	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:10	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:35	Rome (RJ)
21:00	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
23:00	Beirut (RJ)
06:20	Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:45	Cairo (MS)
08:35	Yemen (YV)
09:35	Cairo (MS)
10:30	Jeddah (SV)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:30	Agaba (RJ)
08:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
18:35	Berlin, London (RJ)
18:50	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
17:05	Istanbul (RJ)
16:00	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
19:35	Colombo (RJ)
19:40	Beirut (RJ)
20:30	Riyadh (RJ)
20:45	Aden (RJ)
22:45	New Delhi (RJ)
22:45	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45	Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:45	Beirut (ME)
10:30	Cairo (MS)
11:30	Yemen (YV)
11:30	Jeddah (SV)
13:30	Rome (AZ)
15:20	Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:45	Sharjah (AH)
15:45	Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
22:00	Larnaca (CY)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	700/400
Banana	400/300
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	140/100
Cauliflower	270/170
Cucumbers	340/200
Cucumbers (large)	500/200
Cucumbers (small)	600/400
Eggplant	550/400
Garlic	220/140
Grape Fruit	220/140
Lemon	260/180
Marrow (large)	300/150
Marrow (small)	400/300
Onion (green)	430/300
Onion (dry)	430/300
Orange	550/400
Pepper (hot)	400/300
Pepper (sweet)	400/300
Potato	320/200
Radish	320/180
Spinach	280/180
Straw Beans	900/700
Tomato	470/300

10:45	Damascus (AZ)	00:30	Amsterdam (KL1)
12:35	Abu Dhabi, Doha (GH)	02:40	Athens (OA)
14:20	Algiers (AF)		
14:30	Karachi, Abu Dhabi (AF)		
15:05	Larnaca (CY)		
26:20	Beirut (ME)		
25:05	Athens (OA)		
25:30	Amsterdam (KL1)		

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Rome (RJ)
10:00	Amsterdam (KL1)
10:35	Berlin, London (RJ)
10:50	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
16:00	Istanbul (RJ)
19:10	Colombo (RJ)
19:35	Jeddah (RJ)
19:40	Beirut (RJ)
20:00	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Riyadh (RJ)
20:45	Aden (RJ)
22:45	New Delhi (RJ)
22:45	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
23:45	Sanan (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45	Beirut (ME)
10:30	Cairo (MS)
11:00	Yemen (IY)
11:20	Jeddah (SV)
11:45	Rome (AZ)
15:20	Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:45	Sharqah (AH)
22:00	Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
	Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/400
Banana	600
Banana (Muskannan)	600
Cabbage	100/120
Carrot	270/170
Cauliflower	340/200
Cauliflower (green)	270/170
Cucumbers (large)	350/200
Cucumbers (small)	600/400
Eggplant	260/160
Garlic	550/400
Grape Fruit	220/140
Lebanese	220/180
Marrow (large)	300/150
Marrow (small)	400/200
Onion (green)	300/200
Onion (dry)	420/200
Orange	400/400
Pepper (hot)	400/300
Pepper (sweet)	400/300
Radish	320/200
Spinach	250/180
String Beans	900/700

IN BRIEF

Ended in bus collision

A bus carrying students to school in a car in east Lebanon's Bekaa valley, the accident occurred near the town of Marjayoun, about 10 km from the border with Israel. The bus was carrying 25 students and a teacher. The accident resulted in the death of a 15-year-old student and injuries to several others.

Population to soar

The burgeoning Egyptian population in the Sinai Peninsula is expected to reach 10 million by the year 2000, a report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) says. The report, which is the first of its kind, predicts that the population of the Sinai will increase from 1.5 million in 1980 to 10 million in 2000. The report also predicts that the population of the Sinai will increase from 1.5 million in 1980 to 10 million in 2000.

p in Lebanon

The number of rape cases in Lebanon has increased 50 fold, the justice ministry has been told. The ministry has received reports from 100 women who have been raped. The ministry has also received reports from 100 women who have been raped. The ministry has also received reports from 100 women who have been raped.

French WWII sub found

Israel has discovered the wreckage of a French submarine, the *Surcouf*, which was sunk by the British Navy during World War II. The submarine was found off the coast of Lebanon. The British Navy had sunk the submarine in 1941. The wreckage was found by an Israeli fishing boat. The wreckage was found by an Israeli fishing boat.

Istanbul blast

A bomb exploded in a crowded market in Istanbul, Turkey, on Tuesday, killing at least 10 people and wounding dozens. The explosion occurred in the Eminönü district, near the Blue Mosque. The explosion occurred in the Eminönü district, near the Blue Mosque.

released from British base

A Palestinian prisoner has been released from a British military base in the West Bank. The prisoner was released after being held for several months. The prisoner was released after being held for several months.



JORDANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday receives at the Royal Court U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos, who arrived in Amman Monday on a two-day visit as part of a tour in the region, was expected to meet with senior government officials. The congressman is a Democrat from California. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1980. He is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Government Operations Committee and the Select Aging Committee. Mr. Lantos was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1928. He received his B.A. from the University of Washington in 1949 and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1953. The meeting with the Regent was attended by Awn Khasawneh, legal advisor to the Crown Prince (Petra photo)

Cultural, religious diversity is crucial to universality of human rights

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Cultural and religious diversity is crucial to the understanding and enrichment of the universality of human rights, conference participants said Tuesday.

"Cultural diversity is a positive aspect and adds to the enrichment of human rights. Multi-faith and multi-cultural participation is critical to understanding it," said International Movement of Human Rights and Humanism President Julia Hausermann.

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, a roundtable was held (Dec. 10-12) on "strengthening commitment to the universality of human rights," organized by the Swiss-based International Movement of Human Rights and Humanism in cooperation with the Jordanian Institute of Diplomacy (IID).

The purpose of the roundtable was to provide a forum for representatives of Islamic and Western delegations to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and other experts from diverse faiths and cultures to explore their common commitment to human rights in an informal and non-political setting, the organizers said.

The three-day event was launched on Saturday with a colorful and flavour added by renditions of "Peace On Our Earth" and "Hymn to the United Nations" performed by the choir and orchestra of the National Music Conservatory of Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

"It really worked to make the opening of the conference more media-friendly and to emphasize that this was not just a conference of academics discussing the theory behind human rights," Mrs. Hausermann told the Jordan Times.

The international gathering of participants came from

around the world, including Africa, Asia, East and West Europe, the Middle East and North America.

"A cross section of people were represented by different cultures, religions and professions," said U.N. Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression Abid Hussain.

Participants included Sudanese Minister of Justice Abdul Aziz Shiddo, Ambassador to the Permanent Mission of Poland to the U.N. Ludwik Dembinski, Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Ezzeidine Kerkeni and Senior Advisor to the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zdzislaw Kedzia among other non-political experts and academics.

Inspired by the conviction that this was an opportunity to learn from each other about their cultural, spiritual and social diversity, the participants recognised that multi-faith and multi-cultural societies were essential in the efforts to strengthen commitment to the universality of human rights which they decided was fully compatible with respect for cultural diversity, according to the organizers.

The media plays a significant role in the creation of an environment where human rights can exist since differences are based on images and caricatures, Mr. Hussain said.

"Cultural caricatures float on the media which permeates borders, and through its probing, is increasing the visibility of the world family," said Yellow Springs Institute Founding Director John Clauser.

Mr. Clauser, who described himself as a cultural participant, added that the world population is a human family with differences and a need to maintain identities which form cultures and languages.

However, he said, identity does not preclude the human family.

In the concluding statement, universality was defined as meaning that every individual man, woman and child is inherently entitled to enjoy human rights, simply by virtue of being human.

It was also recognised that in all societies there may be a divergence between the requirements of religious texts and their texts and their observance in practice. The position and treatment of women in both Christian and Islamic societies was a case in point.

It was recommended that intensified cooperation is needed between governments, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in all areas of strengthening commitment to human rights.

The statement added four strategies for cooperation calling for religious leaders and their communities to mobilise their instruction and humanitarian efforts to strengthen implementation of human rights; educational institutions should emphasise the central importance of human rights protection and promotion; public media should avoid stereotypes and develop inter-faith and inter-cultural understanding and for U.N. agencies to be strengthened financially and programmatically to respond to needs of human rights training and multi-cultural education.

The International Movement of Human Rights and Humanism, a non-profit association was founded in 1968 to focus on international humanitarian concerns, works for global consensus and promotes practical stages for action based on respect for human rights and responsibilities. Crown Prince Hassan is one of the organisation's patrons.

Aqaba region looks at post peace projects

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Regional Authority and foreign organisations and governments are discussing the prospect of securing financing for projects linked to the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed in October, regional authority president Faysal Khasawneh said Tuesday.

Dr. Khasawneh said these projects include an international highway linking Jordan with Egypt and Israel, and probably later with Saudi Arabia, the expansion of the Aqaba International Airport and the Aqaba Free Zone and related infrastructure schemes such as roads, water supply facilities, electricity and telecommunications services.

Stressing that such projects are new challenges for the authority, Dr. Khasawneh

said the works are expected to develop social, cultural and economic activities in the port city and open the way for creative private sector contributions to the development of that region. Dr. Khasawneh, who is acting governor of Aqaba, said these projects, which would be financed through foreign aid, would cost the state treasury nothing and would have no effect on fiscal budget.

Stressing that the regional authority was responsible for the overall development of the Aqaba region, socially, economically and environmentally, Dr. Khasawneh said that work has been proceeding for more than a year on city planning and building the required infrastructure to accommodate the growing demand for housing with the increasing population.



Yarmouk University in Irbid

Authorities consider university tuition hikes

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Authorities are considering a hike in tuition fees for students at Jordan's public universities as a possible way to alleviate financial constraints in the budgets of those schools, according to the Ministry of Higher Education's assistant secretary-general.

"The public universities are certainly in need of more overall funding," Riyadh Gharaibeh told the Jordan Times.

"Some (at the Council of Higher Education and the ministry) have suggested raising student fees as a solution," he said.

He said a tuition hike would also be justified because public universities currently charge students a small fraction of what the Kingdom's private colleges are allowed to take for tuition.

Currently, private universities are charging their students an average of JD 40-50 per credit hour, he said, whereas public university tuition was limited to JD 8 per credit hour, on average.

Dr. Gharaibeh denied a recent report in a local Arabic weekly that the Council of Higher Education had already taken a final decision to raise student fees at the public universities.

"Akhhbar Al Usbou" reported in its latest issue that the council had already finalised "a raise in all the various public university colleges and faculties by at least 15 per cent." But the weekly magazine added that ministry au-

thorities had decided to delay public announcement of the decision "until the coming year."

One official at a public university who preferred anonymity said he was against the idea of raising tuition for the students.

"Our students come from diverse backgrounds, and many are very poor," he said. Instead of the burden of tight public university budgets being put on them, he argued, "the government should chip in" to cover any needed increases in financing, through a one or two per cent raise in certain peripheral taxes such as import duties, if necessary.

"I believe this is a more equitable way of financing the costs," he concluded.

In contrast to the possible raises in tuition at public universities, tuition at their private counterparts may actually see a decrease in the near future as a result of discussions underway between several private universities and the Council of Higher Education, Dr. Gharaibeh said.

"Several private universities have asked the council to lower the minimum Tawjihi scores required for admission to any private university from 60 to 55," he said. (Public university admission requires a score of 65). And, since student enrollment levels at the private institutions would most likely increase as a result, "the council may require them to lower their student fees as a condition for allowing them to lower their minimum scores for admission."

AMO reports JD 8m in export sales of produce

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last month sold 22,350 tonnes of vegetables and fruits to Arab and foreign countries worth JD 8.162 million, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

Saudi Arabia's markets topped the list of importers of Jordanian agricultural products, accounting for 32.2 per cent.

The bulletin revealed that tangerines, tomatoes, lemons and pepper were among the main exports to the Arab and foreign countries.

But according to the statement, last month's exports registered a drop of 3,412

tonnes on quantities exported in the same month last year. The AMO statement noted that Jordan usually exports large amounts of lemons, grapefruit, green pepper, oranges, eggplants, tomatoes, cabbages, potatoes and beans especially in the winter.

Organised by the Higher Council for Science and

American couple dies in Naqab highway accident

By Rama Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An American couple Monday was killed in a road accident on the Naqab Highway near Qaerah area on their way to Aqaba, according to police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials.

The U.S. embassy identified the deceased as Robert G. Boling (64) and his wife Jean, (62).

An Aqaba police official told the Jordan Times that the accident occurred when Mr. Boling attempted to overtake a slow vehicle and met head-on with a trailer coming from the other direction.

"The trailer driver stopped when he saw the couple's car coming, but could not avoid the vehicle because it was a one-lane road," the official said.

"The couple's car, a Volkswagen, was lodged under the trailer. The couple was killed instantly," he said.

The official told the Jordan Times that the accident occurred at 6:30 p.m. The

trailer driver, Ahmad Hamdan Mufleh (55) was unhurt, he said.

Mr. Boling, who arrived to the Kingdom last September, was conducting research under an American Centre of Oriental Research ACOR-United States Information Agency (USIA) fellowship on the "the transition from the Late Bronze to the Iron I periods in Jordan: the emergence of ancient territorial states."

Mr. and Mrs. Boling had just returned from a brief trip to India, according to ACOR and were planning to spend a few days in Aqaba before heading home to family and teaching responsibilities as professor of the Old Testament at McCormick Theological Seminary (MTS).

The couple belonged to an elite group of steadfast friends who fostered the growth of ACOR since its founding in 1968, an ACOR spokesperson said.

Mr. Boling earned his masters of divinity degree from MTS in 1956, and his Ph.D. in Near Eastern stu-

dies from Johns Hopkins University in 1959.

He participated in numerous archaeological expeditions in the Middle East, including those at Tell Balata (identified as Biblical Shechem) near Nablus in 1957 and 1966, and most recently participated as a staff member of the Madaba Plains Project in Jordan.

Mr. Boling was a National Endowment for the Humanities research fellow in 1984 and was the author of many books and articles on the archaeology in Jordan. He served as the editor of the Biblical Archaeologist magazine for many years.

Also in Aqaba, CDD units Monday rescued a 50-year-old Israeli tourist at the crossing point between Aqaba and Eilat.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times Tuesday that Andrea Rayed, 50, was treated for head injuries after falling from a hill at the Jordanian crossing point.

He said the tourist was treated at the scene then released and was listed in good condition.

Government approves plans for cooperation with S. Korea, Cuba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday announced its approval of a draft memorandum of understanding between Jordan and South Korea on \$1 million worth of technical cooperation to be provided to the Kingdom by South Korea.

Under the terms of the agreement, Korea will conduct a feasibility study and also prepare final designs for the expansion of the waste water treatment plants at Madaba and Ramtha.

According to a Cabinet statement, the project in-

volves the recycling of treated water for agricultural purpose and subsequently the stemming of environmental pollution and the degradation of underground water resources.

The Cabinet authorised Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib to sign the memorandum on behalf of the Jordanian government.

The Council of Ministers Tuesday also approved a draft agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation with Cuba which

would be formally signed here during a visit later this month by the Cuban foreign minister.

Under the agreement, the two sides will encourage the exchange of technical and economic expertise and will undertake appropriate measures to facilitate economic and trade exchanges between them.

The Cabinet authorised Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan to sign the agreement on behalf of the Jordanian government.

Activist accuses parties of trying to influence human rights groups

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A prominent Jordanian human rights activist has accused some political parties of attempting to politicise human rights groups by imposing their political ideologies on these groups.

By so doing, these parties are weakening human rights organisations and rendering them ineffective, said Suleiman Sweiss, former member of the board of directors of the Arab Human Rights Organisation in a lecture at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Tuesday.

By joining human rights groups, members of political parties after carry with them their own "political ideologies" which eventually tend to paralyse these associations' activities, Dr. Sweiss said.

He said some of these politically oriented individuals have been dealing with human rights groups as if these associations were trade unions. They seek to gather support for themselves and compete with one another thus, in effect, imposing hegemony on these human rights associations, Dr. Sweiss added.

What makes matters worse, he said, is the general social and cultural atmosphere prevailing in the country which Dr. Sweiss said does not help encourage human rights groups to flourish because citizens often tend to be lenient over cases involving human rights violations.

Dr. Sweiss, who presents a special programme on human rights on Radio Jordan and writes on the same subject in a local daily criticised successive governments of Jordan since 1989 for applying only the minimum level of measures to safeguard human rights.

At the same time, he said, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) seem too weak or reluctant to try to benefit from any available government rules that promote and protect human rights.

Dr. Sweiss attributes the failure of human rights groups to progress and expand in Jordan to the absence of unified concepts of human rights among these groups and also to the lack of qualified staff.

Human rights groups in Jordan lack proper pro-

grammes that can be implemented annually and their relationship with the public in many cases can be described as undemocratic, he charged.

As a remedy, Dr. Sweiss suggested that these groups unify their concepts on human rights, prevent political parties from exercising influence on them and follow democratic means in dealing with one another and with the public.

He also suggested that these groups chart programmes for their concerted activities to attract attention and win public support.

Dr. Sweiss levelled his criticism also at Jordanian lawyers, who, he said, more than others, should give due attention to respecting human rights.

Regrettably very few Jordanian lawyers are attentive to human rights issues, although the nature of their work is closely related to human rights cases, Dr. Sweiss said.

He said that all intellectuals, lawyers and others should concern themselves with human rights issues which, he added, are very common in Jordan.

Specialists review study on patient-to-patient diseases

AMMAN (Petra) — A recent study by a team of specialists led by Najwa Khouri of Jordan University Hospital revealed that the risk of hospital patients contracting diseases from other patients ranges between two to five per cent in the Kingdom.

In more advanced countries the rate can reach two to three per cent, especially in large hospitals, said Dr. Khouri in presenting her findings at a workshop Tuesday.

Organised by the Higher Council for Science and

Technology (HCST), the workshop, which was attended by 30 physicians and hospital administrators from the private and public sectors, was designed to examine Dr. Khouri's study with the purpose of highlighting the need for pre-auditory measures to prevent patient-to-patient disease transmittal.

This type of disease transmission constitutes one of the most serious problems for hospitals by endangering the lives of patients and raising the cost of treatment, said Dr. Khouri, who is professor in paediatrics and contagious diseases at the Jordan University Hospital.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

PIANO RECITAL

★ Piano recital by Ms. Irene Kilani at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

★ Film entitled "First Among Equals" (Part II) at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by poet Marid Barghouti at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

LECTURES

★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Human Rights Guarantees Under the Self-rule Authority" by Mr. Fatah Azzam at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

★ Lecture (in French) entitled "Nicolas Poussin (ou le peinture absolue)" by Noël Favreliere at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Painting and water colours exhibition by

Suhail Ma'touq at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Ammar Khammash and Fuad Mimi at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

★ Exhibition of home furnishings and furniture entitled "Colours and Crafts" at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development new offices, Al Madina Al Munawara Street.

★ Exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artist at Darat Al Funn.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Salman Abbas at Alfa Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by Akram Najji Shaker at Ab'asad Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghomri at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 669348).

★ Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Mubhy Khaleefa at the Housing Bank Gallery.

Italy's National Alliance sees Berlusconi government collapse

ROME (R) — The leading minister in the hard right National Alliance movement said Tuesday that Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government could collapse in the new year.

The remark by Deputy Prime Minister Giuseppe Tatarella to journalists was the first time the National Alliance, Mr. Berlusconi's most loyal ally, had acknowledged that Italy's shaky coalition may not survive.

Umberto Bossi, leader of the federalist Northern League party in the coalition, said Monday night that the seven-month-old Berlusconi government would not last more than a few weeks.

The League, Mr. Berlusconi's most troublesome partner, has called for a full review of the future of the coalition after Italy's 1995 budget has been approved by parliament.

Meanwhile Mr. Berlusconi, protected by tight security, met Milan's elite team of "clean hands" investigators Tuesday to be questioned over alleged corruption in his business empire.

The billionaire tycoon was driven to the city's court house in a steel-grey

limousine accompanied by a motorcade of escort vehicles shortly after midday (1100 GMT), witnesses said.

Taking reporters by surprise, he arrived more than four hours ahead of the time that had been previously announced as his shaky coalition government was rocked again by a threat from the Northern League.

Squads of Carabinieri Paramilitary Police stepped up patrols around the court building, nerve centre of the three-year-old assault on graft that toppled Italy's corrupt political old guard.

Mr. Berlusconi, who wore a grey suit, was expected to be questioned on the fourth floor of the fascist-era Palace of Justice by Milan's Chief Prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli and two deputy prosecutors from the clean hands team.

He made no comment on the way in to the meeting but said earlier that he was going to be questioned "with my head held high" and had no intention of resigning.

Mr. Berlusconi is suspected of knowing that three companies in his Fininvest empire

paid Tax Police a total of 330 million lire (\$305,000) in bribes in 1990 and 1991 for lenient audits.

He has sworn his innocence on the heads of his five children and accused Milan magistrates of plotting against him.

In a letter to the financial daily Il Sole-24 Ore, published Tuesday, he said his \$7 billion a year business empire had been subject to attempted extortion by corrupt officials.

"I go to be questioned with my head held high and certain to the core that I'm in the right," he said in the letter. "I want to say loud and clear that I have no intention of giving up."

Mr. Berlusconi powered to triumph in general elections in March at the head of a fractious coalition whose main partners are his free market Forza Italia party, the Northern League and the National Alliance.

Calling Mr. Berlusconi and the National Alliance the last vestiges of Italy's corruption-stained old guard, Mr. Bossi said they would meet "an inglorious end" in a government crisis "that will surely take place."

The League was looking to form a broad-based government of the centre-right and centre-left "to rewrite the rules" of Italian politics and did not see a need for early elections, Mr. Bossi told a party gathering in Milan.

His remarks left the battered lira bumping around a record low of 1,043 to the German mark which the currency hit overnight because of fears that the government, installed in May, would fall.

Mr. Berlusconi is the first prime minister in Italy to face a criminal investigation while in office.

"The very fact of investigating a prime minister creates a delicate public-order problem and arouses a great temptation among the government's opponents to distort the inquiry for low political motives," he wrote in his letter to Il Sole-24 Ore.

"(They) have not been able to resist that temptation."

The government has been locked in a conflict with Milan's clean hands prosecuting magistrates in recent months over the investigators' methods and their probe into Fininvest.

Blast in Philippine plane not due to mechanical defect — Japan experts

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine Airlines (PAL) confirmed Tuesday that a joint survey team with Japan Airlines personnel had ruled out a mechanical defect as a possible cause of the mid-air blast aboard a PAL Boeing 747-300 on Sunday that killed one Japanese passenger.

"A joint survey ... ruled out mechanical defect in the aircraft as a reason that could have triggered the explosion," a PAL statement said.

However, a PAL spokesman would not comment on whether this confirmed that an explosive device brought aboard the plane had caused the blast.

The Philippines' largest broadcaster, ABS-CBN, quoted Mr. Herrera, first officer of the stricken plane, saying there were remains of gunpowder in the area where the explosion occurred.

An ABS-CBN news report quoted Mr. Herrera as saying he had given this information to the Japanese aviation officials investigating the blast.

Earlier, when asked about speculation that the blast may have been caused by explosive materials that were slipped aboard when the plane made a stopover in the central city of Cebu, Transportation Secretary Jesus Garcia said "that is a possibility."

He added that such speculation had prompted him to ask for heightened security at the Cebu Airport, although he would not comment on the identity of any bombers.

"Definitely, there was a breach of security, something went wrong," said Peter Mutuc, Manila airport's security chief.

"Even if you have X-ray machines, in the final analysis the human factor — vigilance — is important," he told AFP.

Mr. Mutuc said 29 additional airport inspectors, trained by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, would be fielded at the Manila International and domestic airports "to ensure that the standard and recommended practices of security

are complied with."

However, Mr. Garcia and the government's Air Transportation Office (ATO) said they had not yet received any report from the investigatory team that went to Japan.

Philippine officials had earlier cast doubt on the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf, an Islamic fundamentalist insurgent group, in the incident.

An anonymous telephone caller saying he represented Abu Sayyaf claimed credit for the bombing in a conversation with a foreign news agency here several hours after the blast.

It has also been speculated that firecrackers might have been sneaked aboard the plane by a passenger. Firecrackers are widely used in the Philippines during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The ATO team left Japan Tuesday to help pinpoint the cause of the explosion, an ATO spokesman said. However, the team has not released any results of the initial investigation.

Aquino's unmarried daughter pregnant

MANILA (R) — Former Philippines president and human rights champion Corason Aquino, a devout Roman Catholic, has something of a family values crisis on her own doorstep. Her daughter, actress Kris Aquino, is pregnant by a married man more than 20 years her senior, and her mother is not amused.

Kris moved out of the family home more than a month ago and she and her mother have not spoken to each other since then, family spokeswoman Deedee Siyangco told Reuters Tuesday.

"According to her (Kris), she is three and a half months pregnant," Ms. Siyangco said. Kris's romance with local film star Philip Salvador has long been an open secret here. Mrs. Aquino, who survived six coup attempts while president between 1986 and 1992, tried to stop the romance but love, apparently, triumphed. Salvador is 45 and Kris 23. "You know Mrs. Aquino. She believes in the sanctity of marriage," Ms. Siyangco said. "I can confirm there has been a falling out and there has been no communication between them since she moved out."

Before Salvador, Aquino's daughter was romantically linked to Robin Padilla, another movie actor who has had several scrapes with the law. Padilla is currently appealing against a 21-year jail sentence for possessing unlicensed firearms. Ms. Siyangco could not confirm published reports that Kris and Salvador planned to fly off to Las Vegas to get married. "We're not privy to her plans. Nor is the family interested in the plans," she said.

Woman stuck in lift for 3 days

Wellington (R) — A 69-year-old Auckland woman was recovering Tuesday after spending three days trapped in a lift. The woman entered the lift at an Auckland City Council car park Friday afternoon and did not get out until maintenance contractors repaired the lift Monday morning. "It was Friday lunchtime until Monday morning," Moira Poor said in a television interview. The lift's emergency stop had been triggered but the emergency alarm did not work because its batteries were flat. Ms. Poor slept on the floor at night and spent the day standing, often yelling for help. "I didn't notice the lack of food or drink," she said. Adding insult to injury, operators at the pay booth did not believe her story when she explained why her ticket had expired. She drove home and later saw a doctor. Auckland Mayor Les Mills said he would launch an inquiry into the incident.

Woman stuck in lift for 3 days

WASHINGTON (AP) — One in four schoolchildren has used illegal drugs before reaching high school, according to researchers who say drug use among American youngsters is "getting worse at a fairly rapid pace." A University of Michigan study released Monday found that while use of illegal drugs, particularly marijuana, continued to rise among teenagers this year, the trend was most disturbing among younger children. Among 13- to 14-year-olds, 25 per cent acknowledged use of illicit drugs at some point in their lifetimes, a figure that rose to 35 per cent when inhalants were included, both figures were up about 3 percentage points from 1993. Michigan's Institute for Social Research began studying teenage drug abuse rates in 1975. It tracked expansion of drug abuse into the late 1970s, a substantial decline that lasted through 1991, and a resurgence since then. Lloyd D. Johnston, one of three researchers who conducted the study, linked this rise to the message young people are getting about drugs. "They are hearing much less about the dangers of drugs and seeing more glamorisation of drugs," he said. Mr. Johnston pointed to findings that 35 per cent of 13- to 14-year-olds, almost 43 per cent of 15- to 16-year-olds and almost half of 17- to 18-year-olds have used illicit drugs including inhalants, all up from recent years. Inhalants can include legal products found around the home such as glue and cleansers. "It is a problem which is getting worse at a fairly rapid pace," Mr. Johnston said.

Drug use among U.S. pre-high school kids rising

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. military commanders planned nuclear strikes against China to protect South Korea and French-ruled Indochina from aggression during the watershed year of 1954, newly-released documents showed Monday.

India's Congress to take stock after rout

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao meets party leaders beginning Wednesday following a debacle in state polls to consider growing demands for subsidies and to decide how to muzzle dissenters.

The spokesman for Mr. Rao's ruling Congress Party, Vithal Gadgil, said the prime minister summoned the Congress Working Committee (CWC) for "a brainstorming" session Wednesday.

Congress leaders will consider if Mr. Rao's three-year-old economic reforms were responsible for the rout in the state polls and how to check dissidence, Mr. Gadgil said late Monday.

"Urgent steps are needed to ensure that dissidence is checked before the five assembly polls," Mr. Gadgil told Reuters.

Some Congress members have privately said the defeat in three of four states which held polls, including two southern strongholds, could

erode the prime minister's authority within the group and in the parliament.

The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said Tuesday it was considering a no-confidence motion against Mr. Rao.

Mr. Rao needs to win the second round of state elections — two of them in the industrial hubs of Gujarat and Maharashtra — scheduled in February.

Congress leaders say Mr. Rao's job as party president and prime minister could be at stake.

"He has three months to put his act together," said a Congress dissident leader who asked not to be named.

"He should have stepped down after the defeat in his southern power base but since the other elections are now due so soon, he has been given a little more time to prove himself."

The most humiliating defeat came in Mr. Rao's home

state of Andhra Pradesh where the regional Telugu Desam Party (TDP) swept last week's polls on the twin promises of cheap rice and prohibition.

Congress, which has ruled India for all but three years since independence in 1947, used to rely on populist policies of subsidies, price controls and trade barriers.

But since 1991, Mr. Rao has pursued a free-market programme, dismantling price controls and ripping down trade curbs, and was unable this time to match populist promises in the state polls.

Labour Minister Purno Sangma, seeking to quash rumours of a shift in policy, said Wednesday that economic reforms would not slow down despite the electoral setback.

Some Congress leaders said the money was not there to offer lavish subsidies to voters.

U.S. planned nuclear strikes against China

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. military commanders planned nuclear strikes against China to protect South Korea and French-ruled Indochina from aggression during the watershed year of 1954, newly-released documents showed Monday.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's top brass, laid out their plans in a previously classified April 17, 1954, memorandum titled "analysis of possible courses of actions in Korea."

In their instructions to a unit known as the Joint Strategic Plans Committee, the military leaders adopted draft plans saying they did "not contemplate a massive atomic strike against Communist territory and its population ..."

"... Rather, it is intended that conventional as well as atomic strikes, as appropriate,

will be employed against military targets in Korea and against those military targets in Manchuria and China which are being used by the Communists in direct support of their operations in Korea."

The document, its top-secret markings crossed out, said the same U.S. military response would apply "in the event of Chinese Communist overt aggression in Indochina," the area made up of present-day Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The memo was released at the National Archives in the first phase of a bulk declassification that will eventually make public about 44 million pages of once secret records, under orders from President Bill Clinton.

It was written 10 months after the June 26, 1953, truce brought an uneasy halt to the

1930-1953 Korean War in which Chinese and Soviet-backed North Korean forces invaded the South.

Later, in July 1954, warring French and Chinese-backed Vietnam Nationalist Forces agreed in Geneva to withdraw to opposite sides of a Vietnamese demarcation zone (DMZ) pending reunification elections, which were never held.

Warren Cohen, an expert on U.S.-Chinese relations at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, said the Joint Chiefs' memo showed that the U.S. military did not want to fight another Korean-style limited war.

"They didn't want any restrictions on the use of American military power," he said in a telephone interview. "It was one of those 'never again' kind of things."

Brazil ex-leader Collor acquitted of corruption

BRASILIA (R) — Brazil's Supreme Court acquitted former President Fernando Collor of a corruption charge, two years after he resigned during his impeachment trial.

The Supreme Court voted 5-3 to acquit Mr. Collor, 45, on one count of passive corruption stemming from an alleged multimillion-dollar influence-peddling ring.

Justices also voted to absolve Paulo Cesar Farias, Mr. Collor's 1989 campaign manager and alleged mastermind of the scheme, of passive corruption.

During the three-day trial judges repeatedly criticised Attorney General Aristides Junqueira for lack of proof showing Mr. Collor was part of a group that allegedly extorted money from businessmen in exchange for favours.

One of the judges that voted to acquit Mr. Collor, Jose Celso De Mello, said Mr. Junqueira had not included testimony gathered by federal agents and congressional investigators in more than 60,000 pages of evidence.

"The documents that are not in this evidence do not exist for the world of juris-

prudence," he said.

Despite the acquittal, Mr. Collor faces more legal trouble.

Mr. Collor, a former governor who took office in 1990 vowing to clean up Brazilian politics, resigned in December 1992 during his Senate trial on corruption charges.

His resignation after huge street protests and a congressional inquiry was widely seen as a sign of democracy's strength in Latin America's biggest country.

Legislative leaders condemned the high court's decision, calling it a sign that corruption could go unpunished in Brazil.

"This barbarity is going to help Congress put a mechanism in place for external control of the courts to keep them from making decisions against the country," said Deputy Jose Thomaz Nono, chairman of the lower house's Justice Committee.

Boris Casoy, anchorman of the popular SBT Evening News programme, said in a commentary, "Collor gained a moral victory and can begin a battle (to show) his innocence by displaying the court's decision."

Second young schoolboy commits suicide in Japan

TOKYO (R) — A second 13-year-old schoolboy hanged himself in a central Japanese town Tuesday in an area already involved in controversy about a similar bullying-suicide, police said.

The boy's body was found on the same day that Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama held a special cabinet meeting to discuss the first death and Japan's Education Ministry urged teachers to crack down on schoolyard bullying.

The second boy left no note explaining his death but raised fears that there might be a wave of copycat suicides.

Police said the body of the second boy, who was not named, was found at a workshop belonging to his father. He hanged himself from a ceiling beam.

The latest young suicide lived in the town of Okazaki, next to the town of Nishio where 13-year-old Kiyotaru Okochi hanged himself last month, leaving a note saying several classmates bullied him into stealing money from his family.

The note said that over a year the bullies extorted \$10,000 from him, ducking him in a nearby river if he refused to pay.

The boy's poignant suicide note said: "I just can't find any money to take to them today. What's the use of continuing to live like this?"

A major newspaper reported last week at least 10 schoolboys had taken their lives because of bullying so far this year.

The suicides have put all aspects of Japan's strictly disciplined school system under the microscope and the latest death is certain to add new urgency to a search for solutions.

In other recent signs of strains in Japan's school system, a teacher was suspended for hitting a pupil in the head every day for six months be-

China starts security drive after fatal fires

BEIJING (R) — China has begun closing down entertainment halls that fail to conform with fire safety regulations after two fires killed more than 550 people in the last month, officials said Tuesday.

"All departments around China have been activated," said a spokesman for the Fire Prevention Bureau under the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing.

He said no timetable had been given for the crackdown on public establishments that do not meet fire safety standards but said anyone failing to implement necessary precautions would be severely punished.

The state council (cabinet) issued an emergency directive Saturday ordering utmost importance for fire

prevention measures and immediate closure of substandard establishments.

Meanwhile, a Chinese court has jailed two Hong Kong businessmen over a factory fire which killed 84 workers in the southern Chinese boom town of Shenzhen in November 1993, government radio reported Tuesday.

Another 27 workers were injured in the fire at the Shenzhen Zhili toy factory, where windows and doors were locked to keep people inside during working hours.

Factory owner Lo Kim-Chuen, a director of Hong Kong's Tri-Co Industrial Ltd, was jailed for two years for ignoring fire safety regulations. Factory Manager Leung Kin Kwok was given a three-year jail term.

Belgian doctor to lead U.N. anti-AIDS drive

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Belgian physician Peter Piot, a world authority on AIDS, was named director of a new programme aimed at mobilising the resources of all U.N. agencies in the fight against the fatal disease.

Dr. Piot, 45, has been involved for more than a decade in efforts to overcome HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome), which cripples the body's defences and for which there is so far no cure.

At least four million people have developed AIDS since the pandemic began in the early 1980s and more than 17 million men, women and children have been in-

fectured with HIV, the virus which causes it.

By the year 2000 it is estimated that between 30 and 40 million people will have been infected worldwide.

"There is no single remedy ... no magic bullet ... and we won't have one, I think," Dr. Piot told a news conference.

Stressing the need to adopt several approaches simultaneously, he said promoting the use of condoms had to be supplemented, for example, by understanding the context in which the largely sexually-transmitted infection was spread.

He told a questioner there were plans to test what he called "candidate vaccines" to combat HIV

Clinton moving to right on small as well as big matters

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton is nudging his administration to the right as he develops a strategy for dealing with the new Republican majority in Congress.

On matters as diverse as postal stamps, medical research and pornography, the president has personally intervened in ways that could help him avoid further inflaming conservative critics.

No one expects Mr. Clinton to win over his enemies with limited steps that some see as little more than symbolic gestures. But the president may at least deny his critics new rallying points.

Mr. Clinton graphically demonstrated his determination to avoid incensing the right Friday when he abruptly fired Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, long a target of conservatives, after she said school children should be taught about masturbation.

That got a lot of attention. But Mr. Clinton's shifts on moral and cultural issues have generally gotten less notice than his decisions on economic issues.

Campaigning for the White House, Mr. Clinton advocated a tax cut for the middle class but shelved the idea after he was elected. He revived the issue after Republicans made tax cuts a centerpiece of their campaigns last month and seized control of

Congress for the first time in four decades.

On defence spending, Republicans also promised a big buildup. Mr. Clinton hurriedly proposed a \$25 billion spending increase. And, sparring with the Republicans over spending cuts, the administration has floated the possibility of eliminating a cabinet department.

On lower-profile matters, in the past month alone, Mr. Clinton has:

— Pressured the postal service to keep alive the tradition of an annual "mother and child" Christmas stamps.

— Barred the government from moving to finance the creation of human embryos for research.

— Scrapped government attempts to overturn a child pornography conviction.

— Offered positive words about allowing school prayer, or at least a daily moment of silence, in class.

— "When he sees an issue about something he feels fundamentally or morally strongly about, he steps in," says presidential adviser George Stephanopoulos.

Some critics, however, see the actions as a response to pressures from the right and as part of an effort to position Mr. Clinton closer to the centre of the political spectrum.

"The White House must be aware of how easily small moral and cultural policy can become huge political liabilities," said Alan Brinkley, a professor of history at Columbia University. "It doesn't surprise me that they're trying to walk on eggshells."

Mr. Clinton need only remember the grief he took for trying to lift the ban on gays in the military or how Michael Dukakis' presidential campaign got bogged down in a controversy over flag-burning.

Conservatives and centrists welcome the president's moves in their direction but say the real test will come on larger issues such as welfare reform, health care and the next federal budget.

They don't expect much. "He can't because of the Democratic and Civil Libertarian constituencies, go very far in this direction," says conservative analyst Kevin Phillips.

Liberals, conversely, aren't

enamored of Mr. Clinton's nods to the right, but agree that the matters that really count are yet to come.

"There's all this pressure on him from different circles to moderate, to in essence become a watered-down version of a Republican," says Arthur Kropp, president of People For the American Way.

Mr. Kropp's group was one of the first to put Mr. Clinton on notice after the elections that liberals won't be silent if he abandons them to court the right.

"He's on relatively safe territory now, but we're coming up to the bigger issues where he's going to have to weigh in," Mr. Kropp said. "If he comes off as a watered-down Republican, it's suicide. In terms of his candidacy (for reelection), he's going to be dead."

Meanwhile, U.S. election auditors recommended Monday that President Clinton's 1992 campaign repay the government \$4,073,696 for a series of finance law infractions that included the loss of two rental cars.

The auditors made the recommendations to the Federal Election Commission, which will review them at a meeting Wednesday. In a quiet campaign financial activities, auditors found that the campaign had somehow lost two cars rented in Texas

and Florida during the campaign.

The auditors said the \$70,296 payment for the cars to a rental agency represented "non-qualified campaign expenses" and that "more prudent care" should have been exercised.

Clinton campaign officials explained, the auditors reported, that a staffer who had rented the cars let various other people use them and eventually lost track of the vehicles altogether.

Most of the requested repayment from the Clinton campaign was because of \$3.4 million was in excessive federal matching funds sought by and given to the Clinton committee during the presidential primary.

In all, the auditors said Mr. Clinton's campaign owed over \$3.9 million in primary funds and \$254,546 from the general election campaign.

Federal finance law requires stringent accounting practices and bars shuffling costs from primary season to general election campaigns. Many campaigns are asked to repay the government after auditors go over the spending and receipts to make sure all laws have been complied with.

The federal government matches donations to candidates of up to \$250 from individuals during the presidential primary season.

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Aquino's unmarried daughter pregnant

MANILA (R) — Former Philippine president and human rights champion Corason Aquino's unmarried daughter, Kris, is pregnant. Her daughter, Kris, is 20 years old and is a model. She is not married and her mother is not sure if she is the father. Kris is a model and is 20 years old. She is not married and her mother is not sure if she is the father.



A Chechen soldier wearing a national dress and hat stands guard in the centre of Grozny. Russian troops, backed by helicopter gunships and planes, fought with Chechen forces as the two sides started last-ditch talks aimed at averting a full-scale assault on the breakaway republic's capital Grozny (AFP photo).

Fearful West stays silent on Chechnya crisis

LONDON (Agencies) — Western governments, worried about adding further strain to deteriorating relations with Russia, are maintaining a discreet silence as the crisis over the breakaway region of Chechnya reaches a climax.

Diplomats say their fear is that if President Boris Yeltsin cannot resolve the issue within the next few days — either with force or through negotiation — the consequences could be disastrous for Russia.

"We all know what's at stake but we don't want to provoke the Russians at a time when our relationship is in a very delicate phase," said one Western diplomat. "We're keeping quiet but it doesn't mean we're not worried."

With thousands of troops backed by tanks and aircraft pouring into the region, the risks of a drawn-out conflict over Chechnya are clear.

Already worried by other problems in the Caucasus along its southern rim, Russia could find itself bogged down with its forces fighting guerrillas in mountainous terrain in a conflict reminiscent of the 1980s Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Diplomats said fighting could spread to other regions, weaken Yeltsin politically if he fails to stamp his authority on Chechnya and further damage his relations with an already disgruntled military.

The use of force within Russia's borders would violate international principles reaffirmed only last week by all European states, including Russia and the United States, at a security summit in Budapest.

But Russia has recently complained about plans for NATO expansion to include Moscow's former satellites in Eastern Europe and taken a more hardline position with the West as Mr. Yeltsin struggles with economic reforms.

For the West, there is simply too much at stake to risk a major row with Europe's biggest power by appearing to interfere in what Russia sees as an "internal affair."

"We still want to give Yeltsin a chance," said another diplomat. "We're not going to get into a row with him over a self-proclaimed, troublesome republic in a region on the fringes of his country."

That line is reflected in public statements. Western governments have limited themselves to appeals to avoid bloodshed, when they have said anything at all.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Sunday that the crisis was Russia's business. "We hope that order can be restored with a minimum of bloodshed and violence," he said.

The French daily Le Monde said in a front-page

editorial Tuesday that "Russia seems to have got Washington to swallow it and there has been an embarrassing silence in other Western capitals."

The government of Chechnya, which declared independence from Moscow in 1991 but remains unrecognized by the outside world, has appealed for help. But the appeal is clearly in vain.

"We are waiting to see if Yeltsin can deal with this quickly and with the minimum fuss, before it gets messy," said another Western source.

"If it gets out of hand, it will be in no one's interest."

The Caucasus is Russia's infant terrible — strategic and wealthy, but unpredictable and dangerous — and nowhere are these contradictions stronger than in oil-rich, but fiercely anti-Russian Chechnya.

Chechnya's struggle with Moscow is just the latest chapter in a bloody history of anti-Russian resistance in the Caucasus, a spectacular and fertile mountain region framed by the Black and Caspian Seas.

The region's post-Soviet instability and constant fighting between the quiltwork of ethnic groups serves Moscow well. The dark-skinned, often Muslim Caucasians are easily lampooned as crazed fanatics, allowing Russia to intervene in the name of restoring order.

But Russia's interests are clear.

The Caucasus, with some of the largest and under-exploited oil reserves in the

world, lies between Russia's traditional southern rivals Turkey and Iran.

Keeping a grip on Chechnya is vital for Russia not only because of the republic's substantial oil reserves, but as part of a strategy of maintaining influence in an area that until three years ago was part of the Soviet Union.

But dominating the Caucasus, especially Chechnya, can be playing with fire.

Empress Catherine II, using Cossack troops and Ossetians, an Orthodox Caucasus tribe, unsuccessfully spent the second half of the 18th century trying to crack the Chechen resistance.

In the 19th century legendary guerrilla leader Imam Shamil fought a jihad, or holy war, against the empire, uniting the Chechens with western and eastern neighbours, the Ingush and Avars of Dagestan.

The Russians finally conquered in 1860, but the seeds of hate and a culture of resistance so visible today had been sown.

Stalin, accusing the Chechens and their neighbours, the Ingush, of supporting the invading Nazis during World War II, simply deported every man, woman and child to prison camps in 1944.

They were only pardoned 12 years later under Khrushchev.

The Ingush accuse Moscow of secretly backing its old imperial allies the Ossetians in a bloody border war between the two groups two years ago.

Today, portraits of Shamil

bearded and with intense black eyes, have replaced pictures of Lenin all over the Chechen capital Grozny.

One picture hangs in the office of separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev, whose government has sworn to fight to the death against the Russian troops that encircled Grozny with tanks three days ago.

Russia's biggest fear in sending its mighty forces against the rag-tag Chechen forces is that the conflict will unite the Caucasus tribes and spark a regional war.

This scenario may be unlikely, but there are already signs that the alliance forged by Shamil still exists.

An armoured Russian column entering Chechnya from Ingushetia was held up by crowds of women and ambushed, with the loss of several vehicles. And a column entering from Dagestan was also harassed and dozens of Russian soldiers taken hostage.

There were unconfirmed reports in the Chechen capital Grozny Tuesday that one of Mr. Dudayev's sworn enemies, warlord Ruslan Labazanov, had buried the axe and appealed to Mr. Dudayev's forces to join him in fighting the Russians.

Until Sunday's intervention, Russia had tried to topple Mr. Dudayev by encouraging internal clan struggles.

But if there is one thing that motivates Chechens more than revenge for the murder of one of their clan members, it is the hatred of Russians.



A Chechen soldier fires at Russian war planes by Russian forces, and exchanges of fire flying over Grozny as another man protects his Chechen forces was reported (AFP photo).

Taiwan reshuffle seen softening approach to China

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan is likely to appoint a relatively liberal economist as its top China policy maker and replace its defence minister in a cabinet reshuffle, newspapers and analysts said Tuesday. Presidential spokesman Raymond Tai told journalists Tuesday a reshuffle would be approved soon. The ruling Nationalist Party's newspaper named economist Vincent Siew to take charge of the island's policy towards rival, China.

Mr. Siew, currently chairman of the influential Council for Economic Planning and Development, will take

over the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) from current Chairman Huang Kun-Hui, the Nationalist's Central Daily News newspaper said.

Mr. Siew, a rising star who represented presidential Lee Teng-hui at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum summit in Indonesia last month, hinted at his new appointment on state television.

"I have not received official notification of this," he said. "It would be more appropriate if I make a comment after I know more about the new position."

Analysts said Mr. Siew might bring a new pragmatism to relations with China which suffered a series of setbacks following an incident in which 24 Taiwanese tourists were murdered in China's Zhejiang province in March.

"Because of his background, Chairman Siew may focus more on economic issues and take an economic point of view when dealing with political problems, which should soften tensions between the two sides," said C.J. Lee, a director at the Independent Chung Hua Institute for Economic Research.

Taiwan and China have been rivals since the Nationalist Party lost the civil war in China and fled to Taiwan in 1949.

The expected reshuffle follows elections on Dec. 3 when the Nationalists suffered a significant setback by losing the post of Taipei mayor.

Incumbent MAC Chairman Huang is seen as a conservative and is widely reported as having had disagreements with the body which directly negotiates with mainland Chinese officials, the Straits Exchange Foundation.

Bangladeshi U.N. soldier dies after attack in Bihac

ZAGREB (AFP) — A Bangladeshi U.N. soldier died Tuesday after being wounded in an unexplained attack in Bosnia's Bihac pocket, where four other soldiers were injured, officials in the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said here.

The soldier suffered brain injuries, was blinded and lost a hand in the attack Monday near the northwest town of Velika Kladusa in the Muslim-held enclave.

One of his comrades was also badly hurt when a rocket was fired at their armoured vehicle and the chances of his survival were poor, an UNPROFOR spokesman said.

UNPROFOR spokesman Michael Williams earlier said that the "atrocious incident" had left three other soldiers less severely injured and said the five victims were evacuated and being treated at the UNPROFOR hospital near Zagreb.

UNPROFOR said it suspected but could not establish with certainty that the rocket had been fired from positions occupied by militia loyal to separatist Muslim leader Fikrat Abdic, who has military support from Croatian Serbs.

Earlier, a U.N. source said

the rocket was "almost certainly" fired from the Serb-held Krajina region of Croatia.

Meanwhile a nine-truck convoy bringing 90 tonnes of food and provisions reached Sarajevo Tuesday "without problems and with an escort," Kris Janowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said.

Two other convoys comprising more than 30 trucks carrying around 400 tonnes of food were delayed for "technical reasons" but were expected to arrive normally Wednesday, Mr. Janowski said.

Difficulties with Serb officials over an escort of armoured vehicles did not materialise, he added.

On Sunday U.N. officials announced that Serbs had imposed a ban on the use of armoured personnel carriers to accompany the convoys on the grounds that they damaged the roads in winter, but "it was a mix-up, I guess," the spokesman commented.

The new deliveries meant that the UNHCR would be able to carry out a full two-week food distribution cycle for the city's 380,000 population.

The three convoys had been prepared to divert into central Bosnia if the Serbs had maintained the ban on escorts.

However Sarajevo Airport, through which 80 per cent of food supplies to Sarajevo were normally channelled, remained closed to humanitarian flights.

Even if all UNHCR resources were switched to a land operation, bringing convoys by road from Metkovic in Croatia, only around two-thirds of normal supply levels could be assured, Mr. Janowski noted.

The UNHCR has applied to Serb officials for clearance for convoys through until Thursday. Friday is an agreed "no convoy" day.

Serb officials Monday authorised the partial reopening of Sarajevo Airport for the rotation of U.N. Protection Force personnel. A U.N. spokesman said flights would resume as soon as possible, with officials in the Serb "capital" Pale giving authorisation on a flight by flight basis.

Serb military leader General Milan Gvero said Monday that a full reopening of the airport would require a

written guarantee that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation would not take air action over Serb-held territory.

In London, the Ministry of Defence said Tuesday British Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, a decorated Gulf war hero, will replace Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, also British, as commander of peacekeeping forces in Bosnia next month.

Gen. Smith, 51, a former SAS commander and until last month Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (ACDS), will replace Gen. Rose on January 24, the minister said, adding that Gen. Rose will be the first U.N. commander to complete a full 12-month term.

Gen. Smith won the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), Britain's highest military decoration, for his command under fire in the allied army's final 100-hour push to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in 1991.

He was described by colleagues as a soft-spoken, intensely private officer, who shuns publicity and who was consequently the least known of the British commanders in the Gulf.

Brown: N. Ireland people should all feel involved

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (R) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown said Tuesday it was important that everybody in Northern Ireland felt they had a stake in the British-ruled province's peace process.

He was reacting to a row over Sinn Fein's "exclusion" from a key economic forum which is designed to give an economic boost to the province after 25 years of guerrilla war by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and its Protestant guerrilla foes.

Mr. Brown spoke to reporters in Londonderry as Sinn Fein, political wing of the IRA, continued its attack on the British government over the showpiece Belfast conference due to be opened later Tuesday by Prime Minister John Major.

Sinn Fein believes it has been snubbed by London. It will not take part in the forum and is promising a protest lobby spelling out the government's "discrimination."

Mr. Brown said he did not want "to get into the crossfire" of the controversy but hinted he felt the non-attendance of Sinn Fein was unfortunate at a time of reconciliation.

"The fact is we (the U.S.) are not the hosts for the conference, we did not call the conference so it is not up to us to determine who the invitees are."

"I must say that at a time of reconciliation, it is obviously our hope that in the future there will be a full inclusion of all those in the community," Mr. Brown told reporters.

"As we move towards peace and hopefully tranquility I think it is important for everyone to feel a stake in the process — to feel a stake in the process it is important to be included."

The British government has dismissed Sinn Fein's charges of unequal treatment over the guest list.

Sinn Fein says leaders of other Northern Ireland parties are entitled to attend the full event but their leader Gerry Adams has not received an invitation. Almost 300 executives will attend.

Britain says six Sinn Fein members are among the Economic Development Committee members of Belfast and Londonderry city councils who were invited.

But no Sinn Fein member has been asked as a party political representative. Last Friday British government officials held their first meeting with Sinn Fein for more than 70 years ahead of its possible inclusion in all-party peace talks.

The U.S. politician, who will also visit Dublin, told a business breakfast in Londonderry that the delegation was hoping to help build "the infrastructure for a lasting peace."

U.S. assures, South, North Korea of commitment to nuclear accord

SEOUL (AFP) — Two influential U.S. senators left here Tuesday after saying they had assured North Korea that Washington will keep its side of the nuclear bargain, despite Republican gains in the November mid-term polls.

But Republican Frank Murkowski, still a harsh critic of the October nuclear agreement, said he had also cautioned North Korea that hopes of full ties with the United States through the pact were conditional.

"The agreement has been made ... I don't anticipate any efforts (to scuttle it)," Gen. Murkowski said.

But what the new

Republican-controlled Congress wanted to see, he stressed, was a much faster opening up of two suspect North Korean nuclear waste dumps — and a parallel improvement in ties with South Korea.

The comments came during a flying 48-hour visit to the two Koreas — 24 hours in the Stalinist North and 24 hours in the prosperous South — the first by incumbent U.S. senators since the Nov. 8 elections in Washington when Republicans took control of Congress.

Shortly after the two senators had both reassured and warned North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam

of the new mood in Washington, ambassador at large Robert Gallucci, chief architect of the accord, added his own warnings.

In a speech to State Department officials, Mr. Gallucci said Washington would not establish full ties with Pyongyang until it halted missile sales and withdrew its troops from the demilitarised zone (DMZ) between North and South.

The North's ballistic missile programme, he said, posed a direct threat to Japan and other Asian countries, and Pyongyang was selling its new version of the Soviet SCUD missile in the Middle East.

Major comments on MPs sparks row

LONDON (AFP) — Opposition MPs Monday urged Prime Minister John Major to retract ironic remarks on his fellow European premier, who he said could not find their own parliaments even with the help of a guide dog.

Mr. Major made the comments after being asked in the House of Commons if he could explain why Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez had pronounced himself delighted with a breakthrough in European Union fisheries discussions that would benefit Spanish fishermen.

"It is not entirely unknown for prime ministers abroad to make statements for domestic reasons," Mr. Major replied.

This does not of course apply to British prime ministers. Prime ministers elsewhere do not find themselves subject to the same rigorous questioning in their parliaments as we do.

"Indeed, I have to say that some of my fellow heads of government could scarcely find their way to their own parliament with a guide dog."

Labour MPs denounced

the remarks, while Paddy Ashdown, head of the Liberal Democrats, urged Mr. Major to retract his statement "before it does damage both to your own standing and to that of Britain."

Mr. Tony Banks of Labour Party warned Mr. Major: "Before it develops into a story throughout Europe, would you care to rethink your gratuitously insulting words you offered recently to your colleague prime ministers and their inability to know where their parliaments are, not to mention the insult to guide dogs?"

In a separate development, outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors, making a final appearance before Belgian political and financial leaders, Monday urged Mr. Major to stand up to the Eurosceptics in parliament.

"When you're the head of a government either you apply your ideas and stay on, despite the sceptics, or you don't apply them and you go," Mr. Delors told a gathering here that included Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, Crown Prince Philip

pe and NATO Secretary General Willy Claes.

"Mr. Dehaene would have made an excellent president of the European Commission," but Mr. Major sacrificed him to the Eurosceptics, to whom he always gives in," Mr. Delors argued.

European Union leaders became embroiled in a conflict last July over the choice of Mr. Delors' successor after Britain vetoed the nomination of Mr. Dehaene.

The first choice of France and Germany, Mr. Dehaene was viewed in Britain as being too committed to government intervention in the economy and a federalist Europe with power concentrated at EU headquarters in Brussels.

A compromise candidate was finally found in Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer.

Mr. Delors contended that the British attitude to Europe varies little, regardless of who is in power, the Labour Party or the Conservatives.

"Mr. Major wants to put the founding fathers (of the EU) in a museum, with Mr. Delors as the guardian," Mr. Delors said.

Mandela to stay in office until 1999

LONDON (Agencies) — South African President Nelson Mandela said in an interview published here Tuesday that he would remain in office until the next general elections in 1999, but would likely step down afterwards.

"I am the servant of the people. I will continue for as long as they want me to," Mr. Mandela told the Daily Telegraph.

"But I must add that I am 76," he said. "I don't feel that at the end of the next five years a man of my age would like to continue to lead the country."

Asked about criticism of the slow pace of social reform in South Africa, Mr. Mandela said, "I don't think that is criticism to be taken seriously."

"We had to ally the fears of whites to ensure the transition process took place smoothly," said Mr. Mandela. "If we had not done so, the civil war that was threatening would have broken out."

He called the progress his

government had brought about "fantastic," saying "we have done very well. We have introduced a culture of human rights, of transparency and accountability."

Mr. Mandela said Monday he had tried to show in his autobiography that he was not a messiah and had the serious flaws of an ordinary person.

"One doesn't want to present himself artificially," he said in an interview on a local radio station when asked about the candour with which the autobiography was written.

"I am an ordinary human being, with frailties and weaknesses," Mr. Mandela said.

"Especially because of the way I have been treated by the mass media, being elevated to the position of a messiah, it was necessary for me to tell the public who I am, that I'm an ordinary person, I have made serious mistakes, I have serious weaknesses."

The autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom, is due to be formally launched in South Africa Wednesday.

A right-wing white caller to the radio station, Eddie Von Maltitz, asked Mr. Mandela to commute the death sentence passed on Clive Derby-Lewis, one of two men convicted of the April 1993 murder of black opposition leader Chris Hani.

"I have got the deepest sympathy for anybody who is in the position of Clive Derby-Lewis," Mr. Mandela replied, adding that it was a matter for minister of Justice, Dullah Omar to address.

"The policy of the ANC is against the death sentence. We regard the death sentence as barbaric and that it doesn't help us much," he said.

No one has been executed in South Africa since 1990 when the then president F.W. de Klerk imposed a moratorium on hangings. A bill abolishing the death sentence is due to be debated in parliament next year.

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Squabbles hurt

THE ISLAMIC summit currently being held in Casablanca is expected to decide on a host of issues that concern the Muslim world and its relations with the international community. Chief among the topics on the agenda are the bloody conflicts that afflict Muslims in Bosnia and Chechnya, the plight of the Iraqi people under the regime of international sanctions, terrorism which the West invariably attributes to Muslims, inter-factional fighting in Afghanistan, the Somali civil war, the issue of Jerusalem, and the Muslim countries' role in the so-called new world order.

The leaders of the 25-year-old Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will find great difficulties in initiating action on any and all of these issues because the OIC has proven itself an ineffective body due mainly to petty quarrels among its own members. Like the situation in the Arab World, the Muslim world suffers from an array of political, economic and social problems, mainly brought about by the practices and direction of despotic, and often corrupt, regimes. These, and factions inside their countries, although committed to the same goal and ideals, fight among themselves, as the example of Afghanistan illustrates, only to attribute their ills and troubles to the West, imperialism and the unfairness of the industrial North.

One sensitive issue on the agenda of the Casablanca summit, which the OIC foreign ministers could not agree on and therefore referred to the heads of state, is Jerusalem. The irony is that Islam's third most holy place is under occupation since 1967 when it was lost to the Israelis. Since then Jordan continued to care for the holy city's Muslim shrines and property as it did since the late 1940s.

In the July 25 Washington Declaration and subsequently the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel, the latter pledged to involve Jordan, as custodian of the city's holy shrines, in negotiations over Jerusalem's final status. The Palestinian leadership was, understandably, apprehensive. But Jordan explained its position in no unclear terms. Crown Prince Hassan said in Casablanca, during the Middle East Economic Summit in early November, that Jordan would concede all rights once the Palestinians established their sovereignty over the city. And earlier this month the PLO's Jerusalem man, Faisal Hussein, said the organisation wanted Jordan to continue to be the custodian of the city until the Palestinians were in a position to assume responsibility for the shrines.

Now, however, it seems the Palestinian leadership is making it difficult for the OIC to adopt a resolution on the city because that resolution refers to Jordan's historic responsibility towards the city. Those who deny that Jordan had a role before 1967 and continues to have one today fit His Majesty King Hussein's description of being "ungrateful."

If anything, Jerusalem should be a unifying not a dividing issue. And if Arabs, near and far, want to fight over it, the least they should do is wait until the city is freed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AMONG THE issues that could be successfully handled at the Casablanca Islamic summit opening Tuesday is the question of lifting the embargo on Iraq, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Rai daily. Morocco, among the most prominent members of the Islamic nations attending the meeting, is best qualified to rally the Islamic world's support for a call on the world community to end the sanctions which have caused suffering to the Iraqi people, said the writer. Indeed, most of the Islamic nations attending the summit are of the opinion that the sanctions should be lifted and so they can ensure a majority of a vote calling on the United Nations to end the sanctions, he added. Iraq has complied with all U.N. resolutions, lost all its mass destruction weapons, cooperated closely with the United Nations and is in contact with the Gulf states, including Kuwait, over reconciliation and mending of fences, said the writer. He said that Iraq is eligible for the lifting of the embargo and is qualified to join the Arab and Islamic fold again.

AHMAD JAMIL Sahker, a columnist in Al Dustour, called for an overhaul of the education and the higher education systems in Jordan in a manner that would better cater to the needs of the local markets. The writer said that the subjects taught at Jordanian community colleges and universities are totally alien to the needs of the market, hence an army of university graduates who find no jobs. Furthermore, those who study nursing at school find nursing facilities at the universities closed to them when trying to pursue their higher studies in the same specialisation, said the writer. The same thing applies to the graduates of agricultural, hotel and management schools, many of whom remain jobless, he added. Citing the example of tourism and hotel management, the writer said that the sole college that offers training in this field is not provided with qualified staff and facilities to turn out qualified people for their line of work.

WASHINGTON WATCH

Arabs should know the power of ideas in shaping policy

By Dr. James Zogby

IT IS an axiom in politics that the side that defines the issues in a political debate will almost always win that debate. The debate is not won by facts or by political realities or even by concepts such as justice, but by the way it is shaped. For over 60 years now, pro-Israel forces have been aggressive in shaping the U.S. debate on a variety of Middle East issues. And they have been winning.

From the earliest days of the Arab-Israeli conflict, it was the pro-Israeli forces, not the Arabs, who recognised the power of ideas in shaping policy, and so it was they who first brought the debate to the American people and defined its terms. The pro-Israel definition of the conflict was a simplistic equation. As expressed in 1936 by the Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann, the Middle East was the scene of a struggle between "the forces of civilisation and the forces of the desert, destruction."

While there have been many variations on this theme, this essentially is the message the Americans received during the past six decades of the one-sided non-debate over U.S. Middle East policy. In this view, there is no other side; Israelis are seen as the only human beings in the Middle East.

Framed again in the film "The Exodus," the Jews once more defined the terms of the debate and established parallels familiar to Americans. In American eyes, the Israelis became the victims fighting for their lives. Having escaped the horror of Nazi Germany, they came to a "new land" only to find themselves and their desires for a better life opposed by heartless Arabs. For Americans, it was a replay of the "pioneer versus the Indians."

In the public mind of America, informed in this one-sided manner, Israelis were understood to be complex human beings with hopes and fears. They came to exist in the public mind as individual people who had suffered and continued to suffer. Americans knew them, they could see them in their mind's eye and identify with them.

On the other hand, Arabs and Palestinians in particular, were viewed not as people but merely as an abstract "political problem." When they were presented at all, it was in caricature or in the collective. They were Palestinian terrorists (objects of contempt) or Palestinian refugees (objects of pity). When they were bombed by Israeli jets, their homes became Palestinian "strongholds" or Palestinian "targets" (objects of invisibility). They were, in any case, "faceless" objects.

Lebanon and the Lebanese fared no better in the public mind. For years, Lebanon existed in the American mind only as a "beautiful place." More recently, Lebanon came to be described as a "once-beautiful place." In fact, Lebanon became in the public's mind no more than a "vacant lot," where Israel fought first the Palestinian "problem" and now "radical Muslims," and where the Lebanese fought themselves.

Throughout the past few decades, Lebanese, as real people, have not been seen; and Lebanese, as individuals, were not known. Lebanese were reduced to caricatures; they were "militiamen" or "terrorists." And Lebanon itself was reduced to a pawn in a strategic game between Israel and Syria.

The same has been the fate of the rest of the Arab World, which was also grossly caricatured. Arab wealth is resented: it is viewed as ill-gotten gains and is therefore held in suspicion and/or contempt. Each year, for example, my congressman sent the voters in his district a questionnaire polling their attitudes on issues of both domestic and foreign policy. Yearly, he would ask a question like: "Should we forsake our alliance with the tiny democracy of Israel to work more closely with the feudal oil barons of the Arab World?"

Given this gross misrepresentation of Arab humanity and Middle East realities, is it any wonder that there has been, up until recently, no serious public debate in the U.S.? If, as the public had come to perceive the situation,

Israeli humanity was struggling for survival against the "Palestine problem," as "forces of destruction," most Americans saw no reason for discussion. Of course, they would say, we should support humanity. And since Palestinians were only a "problem" to be solved, and didn't really exist as an equal people with rights and feelings, then why shouldn't Israel's security concerns be the foremost concern of U.S. politicians?

These perceptions were not, of course, in even the roughest conformity with reality. But reality has not been widely known and is not a part of the debate because Arabs have not engaged in the U.S. debate as vigorously as have pro-Israel forces.

There have been a few remarkable exceptions. The Kuwaitis, for example, made a significant effort to shape the public debate during the confrontation with Iraq. Had they not waged a successful public relations campaign, it is debatable as to whether George Bush could have mustered, on his own, the public support needed to wage a war.

Money and organised political power are obviously key components in the making of public policy — but information work is a critical component in shaping the debate over that policy. Policy is not made in response to political reality or the requirements of justice (if it were, Arabs would have won a long time ago). Policy is made in response to perceptions of reality — perceptions that are created by information campaigns.

Our problem is that Arab information work in the U.S. has been, at best weak, and for the most part non-existent. And while Arab Americans have been waging a valiant struggle for the past 20 years — and with some success — we cannot do the job alone.

Arab leaders seem to feel that discussion with U.S. government officials are enough. Arab intellectuals seem to feel that complaining in the Arab press (as if the side that complains the loudest will win) is enough. Neither is the case.

American policy is frequently wrong. But it is wrong because Arabs do not engage aggressively in the debate in the U.S.

With all the resources that could and should be brought to bear in information campaigns in the U.S., where are the Arab challenges in the U.S. to current pro-Israel campaigns like:

— The campaign to show Saudi Arabia as an unstable and nearly bankrupt country incapable of being as effective a U.S. ally as Israel?

— The campaign to show Islam as essentially an anti-Western and increasingly violent religion?

— The campaign to emphasise Israel's security needs and not Palestinian political and economic needs or Syrian and Lebanese territorial and security needs as just requirements for a peace settlement?

— The campaign to discredit Egypt as increasingly insignificant and unstable as a U.S. ally?

All these campaigns are currently under way in the U.S. And critical issues of public policy will be decided based on the outcome of these campaigns.

Daily, the Arab World press is filled with articles confronting these pro-Israel and anti-Arab efforts. But what is needed is an intense and sustained effort to confront them here in the U.S.. Arab Americans, with our very limited resources, are engaged in this effort. But we cannot succeed by ourselves. My invitation to Arab leaders and intellectuals is simple: join us.

Come to the U.S.. Travel here. Publish here. Address public policy fora, meet with editorial boards, civic groups and elected officials. Invite U.S. opinion leaders to the region. Show them reality and engage them in debate.

We should even take the initiative and begin to form the debate on Arab terms — and begin our own campaign in which Arabs determine the shape of the debate, define its terms and shape public perceptions of Middle East realities. Help us balance the debate here, where it's taking place.



S. Africa's ruling ANC to reassure restive supporters

By Rich Mkhondo

JOHANNESBURG — Seven months into the first year of black rule in South Africa, the ruling ANC is holding a national congress aimed at consolidating the powerbase and reassuring supporters it can deliver its promises.

ANC leaders and political analysts say there are tensions between different factions within the ruling party and its union and communist allies because of the party's inability to quickly honour its pre-election pledges of a better life for all.

The analysts say President Nelson Mandela's party, its top thinkers and strategists drawn into government, lacked direction and its internal structures are in disarray.

They will take a message to

the December 17-21 National Congress in Bloemfontein, the city where the organisation was born in 1912, that clear direction was needed if the ANC was to succeed in holding the hearts and minds of the black masses who voted it into power.

Mr. Sexwale said his region would recommend the ANC strengthen its capacity for governing by taking hold of the public service and the security apparatus occupying strategic positions in the civil service ensuring good support for national and regional ministers and dismantling old bureaucratic networks.

At the Bloemfontein congress, the ANC would also elect its six senior posts and more than 50 members of the policy-making national executive committee.

The ANC has conceded that political and administrative problems have arisen from time to time because it did not have much experience in government.

In a position paper to be discussed at the congress, the party says although it won the elections, it had not won a complete transfer of power.

"The democratic majority has won only some of the important elements of that political power necessary for the advancement of the struggle towards the completion of the current phase of the democratic revolution," the paper said.

But not only is South Africa's ruling party in disarray, but it had been trying to fend off allegations that it had been emphasising reconciliation and reassuring the white

community at the expense of blacks disadvantaged by apartheid.

Researchers and analysts say the black masses were growing increasingly impatient at the gap between political change and social transformation.

"There is a silent backlash against the organisation among its grassroots supporters and extra-parliamentary forces," said political science lecturer Siphiso Maseko. "They feel the ANC has been too conciliatory to whites. Radicals also say the movement has neglected the people who put up it into office."

ANC ministers had been accused of drawing huge salaries amid widespread poverty. Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu stung the ANC earlier

this year by accusing it of stopping the gravy train only long enough to get on.

Researcher Steven Friedman says ANC supporters have not benefited from the reconstruction and development programme, hailed by the party as a vehicle for delivering election promises for a "better life for all."

Mr. Friedman and ANC leaders such as Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa, tipped to be reelected, said the congress would have to come up with clear guidelines to reassure restive supporters that election promises would eventually be delivered.

"Politics is essentially about delivering constituencies. The ANC must know that sooner or later the gratitude for the past must evaporate," Mr. Friedman said.

Fragile peace in Angola but divide as great as ever

By Nicholas Shaxson

HUAMBO, Angola — A fragile peace has taken hold in Angola after nearly two decades of civil war in which hundreds of thousands of people were killed. But the country is still as divided as it was when the conflict broke out in 1975.

"The cities belong to us, UNITA can have the bush," said Captain Toucas, a Huambo-born government soldier in the city recaptured by government troops last month after 18 months in the hands of the UNITA rebel movement.

The division between the ruling MPLA and UNITA is fundamentally a struggle between town and countryside, between better-educated and Europeanised urban populations, and village-based African peasant society, political analysts say.

"They think we are all baboons," said UNITA spokesman Jorge da Cruz, speaking in Huambo earlier this year. "We were brought up in the bush, we were educated there."

The explanations of many Angolans of the difference between the two movements

focuses on UNITA's reputation as a tough and austere bush movement, while the MPLA is seen as more humane, based on the coast and in cities, but indiscipline and corrupt.

When government forces recaptured Huambo, once a flourishing commercial and agricultural centre, they found the central highlands city crumbling and decaying with neglect.



UNITA guerrillas operating
Control claimed by UNITA

Eighteen months under UNITA rebel administration had left Huambo unkempt and barely functioning, more like a sprawling tribal village than the country's once-proud second city.

"UNITA simply are not used to looking after cities," said a foreign aid worker who lived in Huambo during most of the period under rebel rule.

UNITA, its lightly-armed troops no match for a resurgent and heavily-equipped Angolan army, melted back into the bush last month when it became apparent the city's fall was inevitable.

A diplomat said UNITA could not be completely defeated if it remained a guerrilla army.

"They can always find ways to keep cutting off the cities if they want to," he said. "The question is, after their leaders got used to living in the city, have they got the stomach to go back to living in huts?"

UNITA seized the city in March 1993 Jonas Savimbi's rebels restarted a debilitating civil war when they lost U.N.-monitored elections in 1992.

The government recap-

tured Huambo last month as year-long negotiations in the Zambian capital Lusaka culminated in a peace accord and a ceasefire between President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos' MPLA and UNITA to end Africa's longest civil war.

As well as the educational and economic divide, tribal differences have formed another component of the deep enmity fueling the war.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) has traditionally drawn much of its support from the central highlands Ovimbundu people, while most northern and coastal-based Mbundu people have supported the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

Ideology — important during cold war years to attract armed support from Cuba and the former Soviet bloc for the MPLA and from the United States and South Africa for UNITA — has faded in importance.

UNITA's bush background dates from soon after its inception in 1964 during the struggle against Portuguese colonial rule.

Mr. Savimbi trained at China's ranking military institute and was a keen follower

of the ideas on guerrilla warfare espoused by Mao Tse-tung, whom Mr. Savimbi met in 1967.

"The countryside and rural populations must be won first," is a key Mao tenet. The Nov 20 Lusaka peace accords aim to revive the 1991 collapsed Bicesse agreement — a culmination of a wider regional deal to link withdrawal of some 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola to a peace settlement in South Africa.

Conflicts in the conflict, as well as independence for neighbouring Namibia from Pretoria's rule.

In the first months of the renewed war in 1992, Mr. Savimbi captured large parts of the country, including Huambo — called Nova Lisboa with a population of 500,000 under Portuguese colonial rule.

Diplomats and ordinary Angolans fear the urban-rural divide may prove as difficult to bridge as other of Africa's notorious tribal wars.

Human rights organisation Africa Watch summed up in a recent publication the widely perceived difference by quoting a line of Angolan graffiti: "UNITA kills, the MPLA steals."

Features

Was Petra abused by Gerti?

By Ammar Khammash

"When he finished, she commented: 'But I don't look like this.' Picasso answered her: 'But you will, Madam!'"

WHEN Picasso painted he didn't copy; he re-composed. His cubist paintings of violins are more valuable than the original violins used in the still life. What he showed us is vision of a different kind, not objects of importance painted and framed. A solid artist gives important substance to mundane subjects and does not get substance from subjects of importance. From viewing the works of the Dutch artist Gerti Bierenbroodspot I could conclude that she belongs to the latter category.

The subject within a work of art is either a tool to enable the artist to lend his eye to the viewer or the end-product itself. In this case a work of art becomes a poster with an aim, decorative, or commercial, only suitable for filling the walls of furniture shops.

In her works, Gerti stocks elements from archaeology, architecture and sculpture. She uses artwork of great artists who died 2000 years ago. She copies their works of intricately sculpted heads and architectural elements without giving them credit and we go to the exhibition and see the Jordanian-Nabataean talents and skills framed as hers. When we give Petra credit we begin to refuse any additions to the naked eye.

When Burkhardt discovered Petra he discovered it for the Western world, not for us. We already had it. When David Roberts made his drawings of the Holy Land (including Petra) he

was commissioned by his countrymen to document, as a camera does, when a camera was not available. Here we have Gerti, the neo-Orientalist, discovering Petra not for the West but for us here in Amman. When we look closer at the details of her paintings, we see the intricate details of a bird's wing almost three-dimensional, when we look closer we find that the feathers are actually there. They are made of paper stuck to the surface of the canvas. In other words, details are made by rubbing paper on the subject itself (remember in Petra there are no copyrights let alone rubbing rights) and at the bottom of many of the works are shapes stamped in ink, an inventory of seals of originality and symbols of the depicted civilisation. But in some works there are surprises. The seals in Amsterdam must have got mixed because below a Nabataean elevation we get an ancient Egyptian eye, or two columns of the Doric order from ancient Greece.

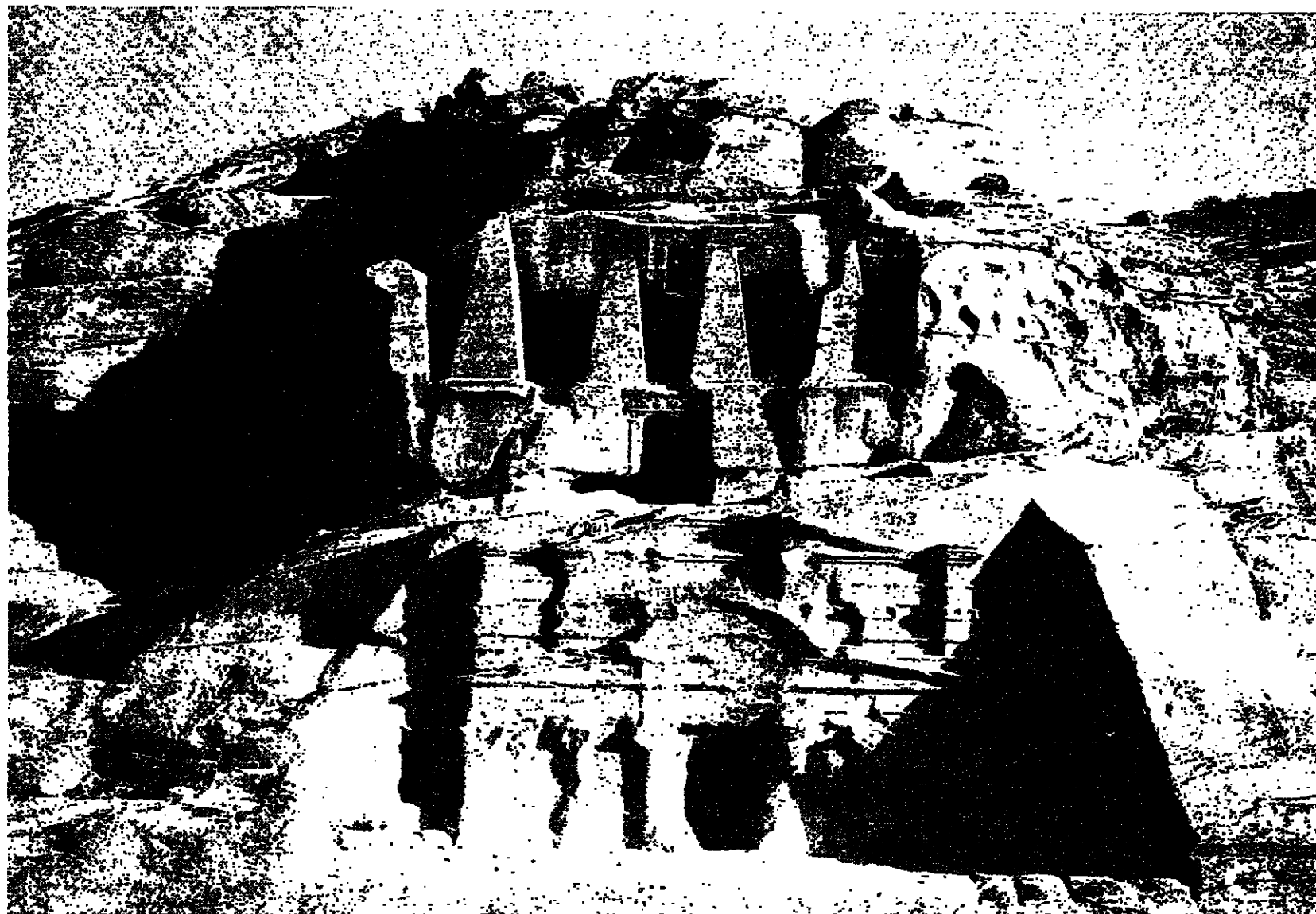
Petra was definitely influenced by other cultures and these influences are the subject for art historians, archaeologists and other professionals to examine with some structured methodologies. But when they are used in a painting, as we have here, they lack their contextual meaning and when Nabataean inscriptions are transliterated without the faintest degree of abstraction, it pushes the work into the orbit of graphic design and away from fine art.

Here the method of comparative analysis could be helpful. We must not forget that there is a prominent Jordanian artist who has been

for years studying and painting Petra. Suba Shoman's vision of Petra pierces beyond the ornamented faces and facades. Shoman has made a strong point in not painting the chiselled works of the Nabataean artists. By refusing to claim any of the abundant ornamentation of the ancient site she stands on her own feet against all temptations. Her works and the work of Gerti are of total paradox. One shows us what we couldn't see in Petra, the other shows us the visible which we can enjoy better by looking at the real thing. One has compositional masses and solid surfaces, the other foggy ink-running-in-paper. Somehow the wet-look effect of Chinese paper lends itself to foggy, humid, open landscapes and not to the monuments of a solid, arid, enjoyably claustrophobic site. While Gerti used the Nabataean script as it is, Shoman abstracted it and while the first stayed painting in the Siq for years, the second arrives to Jordan from another monument of international importance and goes right to the treasury.

When I look at the works of Fahrelnissa Zeid I stand touched by her world, a world that she tailored for herself, and by the peculiarity and power radiating from works made from simple chicken bones or oil coloured stones. She showed us how to give power to stone not how to take power from it.

The writer, an artist and architect himself, has for many years been interpreting Petra in his own style. His works and those of fellow artist Fu'ad Mimi, are currently being exhibited at the Instituto Cervantes in Jabal Amman.



Tombs by the Obelisk (File photo)

Petra's 'inner world' for a foreign artist

by Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Since European explorers first reached Petra around the middle of the last century, the "rose-red city as old as time" has become a tantalising lure for many Western artists and writers. With its potpourri of ancient ruins, combined with dream-like landscapes and its well-known ancient role as a central meeting place for far-ranging oriental trade caravans, Petra has come to be seen as a kind of symbolic gateway by many foreign visionaries, behind which lies all that is exotic and mysterious to them about the Middle East.

As a result, Dutch painter Gerti Bierenbroodspot could hardly have picked up a more well-trodden subject when she chose to spend the spring and autumn of 1989 living among Petra's ruins. What is captivating about her renderings from those two seasons is the inner world she saw, lying hidden among the battered faces of monuments and tombs already photographed in picture books worldwide.

The landscape which the artist visualised has very little to do with previous Western visions of Petra as a symbol of the riddles of the Middle East. Instead, the city and its monuments are cut completely adrift from any connections to the region and are

left beneath the sun of another world which has much more in common with the barren and savagely austere no-man's land of English poet T.S. Eliot. Lines from his poem "The Waste Land" are quoted, and rightly so, in the brochure for Ms. Bierenbroodspot's exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre: "A heap of broken images, where the sun beats, and the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief, and the dry stone no sound of water. Only there is shadow under this red rock (Come in under the shadow of this red rock). ...I will show you fear in a handful of dust."

The fear and desolation of this imaginary waste land does not blot out the fact that amongst its dusty emptiness there might lie places of beauty, and a haunting and evocative beauty at that, as shown by Ms. Bierenbroodspot's "Secret Places" series, three of the most expansive and intriguing paintings among the 28 on display at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

And, unfortunately, her exhibit as a whole seems to be proving that good art does not necessarily guarantee a genuine turnout of visitors. While the Jordan Times was at the RCC covering the exhibit, the display hall remained empty of viewers, with the exception of one other person.

Ms. Bierenbroodspot can

debatably be said, without any flattery, to be among the very finest artists from an outside country who have brought their work to Amman in 1994, and this display deserves a better turnout than it appears to be getting so far.

The exhibit, entitled "Petrascape", was jointly opened on Dec. 7 by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and His Royal Highness Prince Claus of the Netherlands. "Petrascape" will be one display at the RCC until Dec. 21.

Kazakhstan wants Chinese nuclear blasts stopped

By Nigel Stephenson
Reuters

ALMA-ATA — Kazakhstan, site of hundreds of nuclear blasts in the Soviet era, is seeking international support to persuade Beijing to stop testing atomic bombs near its territory.

Activists and officials in the former Soviet republic say explosions at the nuclear test site at Lop Nor in north-western China, send dangerous fallout across the frontier and they want them stopped.

"Carrying out tests without the agreement of your neighbours... it is just impossible. It is inhuman," said Viktor Slavgorodsky, head of the Radiation Department at the Ecology and Biological Resources Ministry in an interview.

"The Kazakh government and Kazakhstan as a whole believe it is necessary to stop the tests urgently," he said. Even in the late Soviet period, Kazakhstan was the scene of protests against nuclear explosions at the former Soviet test site at Semipalatinsk in north-east Kazakhstan.

The Nevada-Semipalatinsk group, named after the U.S. and Soviet testing sites and founded in 1989 by poet and politician Olzhas Suleimenov, mobilised tens of thousands of people in the Republic that year to call for a ban on the tests.

Last April, the group staged a protest about the Lop Nor tests when Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng visited Kazakhstan.

Reflecting concern over disarmament, the Kazakh government said last month it had handed over some 600 kg of weapons-grade uranium to the United States for safe-keeping.

Scientists in Kazakhstan, which gained its independence in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union, have been monitoring tests in Lop Nor in China's Xinjiang region, some 1,200 km from the border, since the first blast in 1964.

Mr. Slavgorodsky said the level of short-lived radionuclides rose briefly after each test and the level of longer-term pollution also went up.

He said Kazakhstan, sandwiched between nuclear powers Russia and China, would welcome international cooperation in researching the effect of the fall-out health. "We do not know how this will show up but there is no doubt it is harmful. Time will tell."

Kazakhstan denounced the Chinese test, in early October, as a threat to health and the environment. The Foreign Ministry said the blast, the second in four

months, undermined the process of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Three days after the explosion, ISTAR-TASS news agency quoted President Nursultan Nazarbayev as saying that preventing nuclear proliferation and banning nuclear tests were among Kazakhstan's top diplomatic priorities.

"Kazakhstan intends in future too to do its utmost to prevent nuclear proliferation in the world, to bridge the pernicious might of nuclear arms and to cut nuclear potential," he told a conference in the capital, Alma-Ata.

Mr. Suleimenov said his group sent a protest. "But we understand that such a form of struggle is ineffective and we suppose that the basic word on this has to come from governments of the nuclear club," he said.

The other four members of the nuclear-armed club — Britain, France, Russia and the United States — have suspended nuclear tests and the Chinese explosions have brought international protest.

Talks began this year on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. China has said it will stop tests once the treaty comes into force and that it hopes this will be no later than 1996.

China also says its testing programme is tiny compared to those of other nuclear powers.

Semipalatinsk was one of two Soviet nuclear test sites. Between 1949 and 1989, 470 test explosions were carried out. But in August 1991, Mr. Nazarbayev banned them.

Kazakhstan was left with 104 SS-18 ballistic missiles on its territory when the Soviet Union collapsed. But it signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty late last year and said in March that its nuclear arms were being destroyed according to plan.

"We are the fiercest supporters of full nuclear disarmament. We have an interest in neither China nor Russia nor America nor anyone else having nuclear warheads," Mr. Suleimenov said.

"Nobody can guarantee that there will not be an extraordinary situation and something would be thrown in our direction. A thousand kilometres is not very much," he said.

Mr. Suleimenov said he believed China could be persuaded to end tests a year early, in 1995.

"There is a chance as 1995 is the 50th anniversary of the explosion of the bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki," he said.

Powerless against power rangers

By Christopher Sullivan
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The melodies of Christmas: "Jingle bells, jingle bells..." "silent night, holy night..."

And, of course, "Go go Power Rangers". "To the season to launch massive dragnets in search of 20-centimetre action figures. Peace on earth, good will toward men? Yeah, right, but first you've just got to find that pink power ranger. Hi-yah."

How manic has it gotten? One mother describes tailing a toy company truck from store to store to beat a two-per-customer limit. A grandmother tells of crazed pleas left on her answering machine by her 3-year-old grandson.

"Parents are really blessing us," said Scott Tarzwell, assistant manager of Atlanta's branch of Fao Schwarz, presiding over a small mountain of morphia grain.

The white and the pink figures are the most in demand in the United States, the \$13 action figures have fetched as much as \$50 on the black market.

Saban Entertainment Inc., which produces the show, has licensed nearly 400 other Power Ranger knockoffs here and abroad, and says sales of Power Ranger merchandise worldwide were expected to reach \$1 billion in 1994.

The figures are in great demand in Europe too.

Peter Willasey, a spokesman for Harrod's department store in London, said: "It's probably the most sought-after toy in our department. Demand has by far outstripped supply within the last several months."

In France, the daily paper Le Parisien published a poll for "Toys R Us" chain of toy stores, asking French kids what they most wanted for Christmas: fourteen per cent of boys said Power Rangers.

The rangers are also selling briskly in Italy. The shelves in Berte, a major toy store in Rome, were half empty just nine days after the Power

Rangers went on sale.

But in Norway, the Scandinavian satellite network TV-3 took Power Rangers off the air in October after a five-year-old girl was killed by two playmates in Trondheim. The incident triggered an emotional debate about TV violence after witnesses said the kids often played Power Rangers.

Indeed, visions of the karate-kicking good guys and their evil space alien enemies dancing in kids' heads are raising concerns among some teachers, researchers and some parents.

"Teachers all over (the United States) have said the Power Rangers are causing all kinds of trouble," said Diane E. Levin, with colleague Nancy Carlsson-Paige, conducted a study, released this month, that found the programme has obsessed many young children and made them more violent in school.

Ninety-six per cent of the 56 U.S. teachers surveyed reported seeing more kicking, fighting and other behaviour imitating the Power Rangers, said Ms. Levin and Ms. Carlsson-Paige, who teach at Lesley College and Wheelock College, respectively.

"They'll start just kicking around. Then, someone gets too close and gets kicked. Then, there's more kicking. And then, it's crying," said Cara Gile, an Atlanta kindergarten teacher.

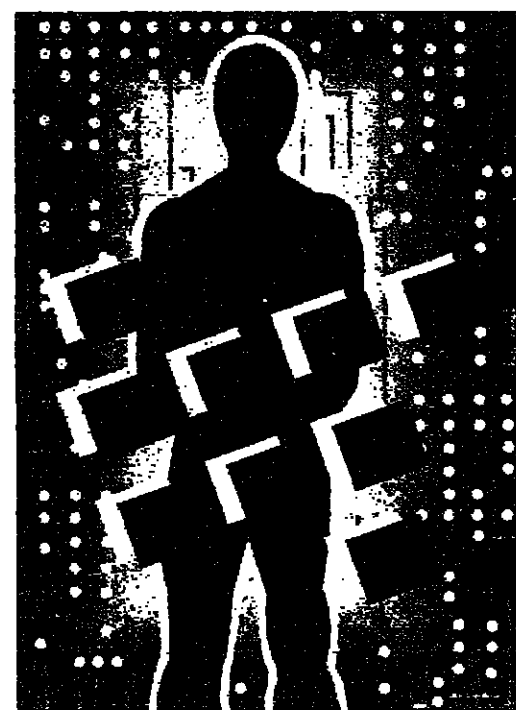
"A big part of kindergarten is learning social skills and how to resolve conflict," she said, adding 5-and 6-year-olds are not naturally violent.

The Power Rangers teach a "might is right" lesson that's the opposite of what schools are trying to instill, counselor Mary Leiran said.

Are teachers and parents powerless against the Power Rangers?

No, insists psychologist Chris Boyatzis, who earlier this year released a study finding seven times more aggressive acts by children who watched a Power Rangers episode than a comparable group who didn't.

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Report reveals new objectives, policies of Jordan's central bank

By Khattab Salman

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) intends to adopt a monetary programme for the 1995 fiscal year that is designed for the first time on the basis of indirect control of monetary expansion.

A report presented by CBJ Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi to last week's meeting with the donors representatives held in Amman revealed the new policies of CBJ.

The report said that quarterly ceilings have been established on net domestic assets of the public sector while keeping in mind credit requirements of the private sector, as well as eliminating the credit to deposit ratio and unifying the reserve requirements for all commercial banks.

The report also revealed CBJ's plans to establish a redemption fund of about \$500 million to help ease expected pressures on the Kingdom's reserves of hard currencies in the case of possible issuance of a Palestinian currency in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The report added that Jordan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) worked out a medium-term scenario that assumes a debt reduction of \$1.94 billion in order to raise real economic growth rates to 6.5 per cent annually, thereby meeting economic development requirements.

The comprehensive report on the performance of the Jordanian economy rounded up the major financial and monetary indicators of the

Kingdom's economy, recent monetary developments and policies, in addition to future financial reforms, 1995 monetary objectives, and future challenges hindering the economic development and proposals to tackle them.

In the context of future financial reforms, Dr. Nabulsi pointed out that the CBJ will concentrate on enhancing the efficiency of the financial system within the framework of the recently prepared medium term macroeconomic plan. He said that a broad-based financial sector reform programme supported by the World Bank will be formulated, which will focus on strengthening banking supervision and prudential regulations, enhancing development of capital market, improving accounting standards, and adopting necessary reforms to create a sound climate for developing long-term savings institutions and instruments.

Concerning the 1995 monetary objectives, Dr. Nabulsi said that the monetary programme for 1995 was designed, for the first time, on the basis of indirect control of monetary expansion. The central bank will secure the level of indicative targets through open market operations. Accordingly, quarterly ceilings have been established, on net domestic assets (NDA) of the central bank (replacing the banking system NDA ceilings). Keeping in mind credit requirements for the private sector, quarterly ceiling for net claims on the public sector have also been set.

"To strengthen the indirect monetary control operations,

the CBJ intends to take the following steps: Eliminating the credit to deposit ratio, using liquidity ratio for prudential functions but not for monetary control, moving towards unifying the reserve requirement for all banks, reduce reliance on reserve requirement as a monetary policy instrument," Dr. Nabulsi said.

"On the other hand," he added "and in light of the purpose of sustaining adequate official reserves, floors for net international reserves (NIR) of the CBJ have been set. To this end, the CBJ will continue to maintain an appropriate level of interest rate differential between JD and U.S.\$ denominated assets."

Dr. Nabulsi underlined future challenges facing the Jordanian monetary system despite attainment of objectives that may put some pressure on foreign reserves.

"Two new factors came into the picture and may exert future pressures on foreign reserves: First, fear of liquidation of JD-holdings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip due to the possible issuance of a Palestinian currency. Speculations arising from related factors were responsible for the sharp decline in CBJ's reserves early this year. Therefore, Jordan is seeking assistance in establishing a redemption fund for this purpose estimated at about U.S.\$500 million.

"The second source of potential pressure on foreign exchange reserves arises from the intensity of liberalisation coupled with the expected increase in investment demand in view of the anticipated economic boom in the region."

He indicated that Jordan and the IMF constructed an alternative baseline medium-term scenario to that recently reached.

The old scenario indicated that potential shortages in foreign exchange could become a major constraint to economic development, and the medium-term economic growth rates are expected to decline to 4.5 per cent per annum. This is clearly inadequate in view of a 3.5 per cent per annum increase in population.

"Therefore, Jordan and the IMF constructed an alternative medium-term scenario that assumes a debt reduction of U.S.\$1.94 billion. Under this scenario, estimated real economic growth rates rise to 6.5 per cent, due to higher private domestic and foreign savings and investment ratios," Dr. Nabulsi said.

Official reports have said that Jordan paid \$570 million in debts service in 1994 and that the total external debt has dropped by 4.2 per cent from \$6.87 billion in 1993 to \$6.58 billion this year.

The reports said that \$831 million of Jordan's external debts were written off; \$702 million of which from the U.S., \$30 million from Germany and half a million from France.

In addition to that, a \$1.212 billion due to be repaid over the period 1994-1997 was rescheduled over a 20 year period in an agreement signed last July with the Paris Club.

The man who saved the French franc dies

PARIS (R) — Antoine Pinay, father of France's "new franc" and a fount of homespun conservative economic wisdom for generations of finance ministers, died Tuesday aged 102.

Pinay died in his sleep at his home in the central town of Saint-Chamond a few days before his 103rd birthday, local officials said.

Parliament observed a minute's silence and politicians from across the spectrum paid tribute to his self-taught economic common-sense, which brought France back twice from the brink of ruin and earned him the title of "the man who saved the franc."

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur described him as "one of the great Frenchmen of our times" and praised him as a determined and clever man.

Pinay overcame the humiliation of collaboration charges after World War II to become prime minister and was hailed as the man who worked economic miracles in war-ravaged France.

In 1960, he knocked two zeros off the franc in a drive to kick France's inflationary habit and introduced a new currency known first as the "heavy franc" and later as the "new franc."

Finance Minister Edmond Alphandery said Pinay had brought common sense to France's finances and recalled his best-known dictum: "un sou est un sou" (a penny is a penny) — a plain-speaking way of telling the French people they were living beyond their means.

Islamic grouping too political, Asian delegates complain

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AFP) — The world's foremost grouping of Islamic states is bogged down in politics and needs a good dose of free-market medicine to solve its problems, Asian delegates to a two-day summit meeting said here.

Saadah B.A. Syahrudin, an economics specialist from Indonesia's Department of Foreign Affairs, said the 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) must change its approach.

"Everything is politicised. Even in the economics committee everything is politics," Ms. Saadah told AFP during preparatory talks for the OIC summit starting Tuesday.

Other Asian delegates agreed with her assessment.

Ms. Saadah, who has responsibility for economic cooperation among developing countries, said the OIC could be more developed and stable if it adopted a market approach.

"You cannot be stable if you're poor," she said. "In East Asia we believe that if you want to develop, you need the private sector."

OIC Secretary-General Hamid Algabid lamented at the opening of talks here Saturday that "our Islamic world has fallen prey to all kinds of conflicts."

But he made no strong appeal for an economic approach to solving problems.

His speech emphasised political concerns and the need for close OIC cooperation to solve such basic problems as illiteracy and backwardness in all areas of science and technology.

Ms. Saadah suggested remedies that would boost OIC economies through trade. She urged more OIC states to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and other international organisations, form regional trading groups and host trade forums.

"Many OIC states are not members of GATT. We would like to trade on the GATT system rather than having it done with no regulations at all," she said.

"It is now the time for OIC states to start preparing for common markets," she said, adding that closer cooperation was needed in "sub-regions" to harmonise regulations.

"If you're going into business you have to be in the International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)," which provides businessmen with a meeting place to learn about markets, she said.

By joining the ICCI, many Islamic states with carpet industries, for example, would "know the price, quantity and quality the world needs."

Ms. Saadah urged OIC members to open up their markets. "You cannot ask other markets to be open if you're not open."

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which helps the OIC's many poor member countries, needed to focus less on public works projects and be more business-oriented, she said.

U.N. chief tells Africa to learn from Asia

BANDUNG, Indonesia (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Tuesday called on African countries to learn from Asian nations, which have some of the world's fastest-growing economies.

"African countries have much to learn from Asia's dynamic economies," he said in a speech to the Asia-Africa meeting in this windy city 180 kilometres southeast of Jakarta.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali said in his speech, read by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), that Africa, in turn, had much to offer the world.

"And there is much that the world can learn from Africa's experience," Dr. Ghali said.

The meeting, attended by 100 delegates from 43 African and 10 Asian countries, is jointly organised by Indonesia, Japan and the UNDP. It ends Friday.

Indonesia's President Suharto opened the meeting on Monday, saying that countries in Asia would be happy to share their economic experience with African nations.

Dr. Ghali said the meeting was significant at a time when conflicts and peacekeeping threatened to monopolise the energies and attention of the international community.

"The dialogue that will be taking place here can make an important contribution to building a new consensus for development and about development," he said.

Third World debt tops \$1,600b, OECD unit says

PARIS (AFP) — External debt held by developing countries rose by \$75 billion in 1993, mainly through commercial finance, hitting a year-end total of \$1,629 billion, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) said.

A group of 10 fast-growing Asian and Latin American countries led by China, Thailand, Mexico and Argentina showed the greatest increases, accounting for an amount that matched the over-all 1993 rise in Third World debt, the DAC said in an annual debt survey.

The survey showed that Japan is by far the leading creditor country, with claims on non-OECD countries totalling \$241 billion — including \$150 billion owed by Asian nations — followed by Germany at \$142.9 billion and the United States at \$142.8 billion.

France, in fourth position at \$101.6 billion, was well

ahead of Britain (\$62.3 billion) and Italy (\$41.9 billion), according to the first such list ever released by the DAC.

The survey showed that Germany is the main creditor of the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC), including the former USSR, with a total of \$46.7 billion as of the end of last year.

Japan's claims of \$11.6 billion on the CEEC group were the second largest, although rather small compared with its total outstanding claims, but nevertheless double the size of U.S. claims on these states.

Italy and France, at \$10.2 billion and \$8.5 billion respectively, were also ahead of the U.S., with \$4.7 billion.

Observers saw this as a modest figure against the background of Washington's strong display of political leadership in working out huge aid packages for Russia and other

CEEC states.

The global developing-country debt of \$1,629 billion compared with \$1,552 billion at the end of 1992, or a nominal increase of \$75 billion which, adjusted for exchange rate swings, came out at \$75 billion in real terms.

The overall indebtedness of the New Independent and Baltic states — the former Soviet Union — and other CEEC states remained virtually unchanged at a total of \$176 billion as of end-1993. This compared with \$174 billion a year earlier, but amounted to a \$6.0 billion increase in real terms, adjusted for exchange rate movements.

The DAC survey showed that Asia is now the most indebted region with a total outstanding debt of \$607 billion at the end of last year, of which \$277 billion were commercial credits and bonds and \$330 billion exports credits. China has been one of the

most active borrowers of the region, with outstanding debt at \$89 billion up from \$74 billion at end-1992.

The survey stressed that debt reorganisation measures taken in the late 1980s have put Latin American, but to a lesser degree Caribbean, debtors on the path of recovery, with export credits and financial market funds again flowing into the area.

Both categories of debt rose in 1993 as did multilateral lending, with Mexico, the biggest debtor, raising its total outstanding debt to \$118.5 billion from \$109.8 billion at the end of 1992, and Brazil reporting a \$4 billion increase to \$105.7 billion.

Total Latin American debt stood at \$489 billion, an \$18 billion increase from 1992.

Middle Eastern and North African countries, which sharply boosted their borrowing after the Gulf war, reduced their recourse to finan-

cial markets last year — although Saudi Arabia continued to borrow.

The region's overall debt narrowed to \$238 billion from \$242 billion in 1992, according to the survey.

Africa, the poorest continent, also saw its overall debt decline last year, under the impact of debt relief mea-

sures for the poorest nations, it said.

Sub-Saharan Africa's outstanding debt fell to \$151 billion — one-third of the total owed to multilateral institutions — from \$159 billion at the end of 1992, but the region did not reap much benefit from the general expansion of export credits, the DAC report said.

Wrap yourself in luxury

DAJANI'S

Gold & Gems Jewelry

6th Circle, Amra Hotel Shops, Amman.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1994

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day for repaying any social obligations or debts and spending time with good friends that make your life richer. If you have any time look into a new wardrobe that is more flattering.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you schedule your time well, you can handle both business and creative activities ideally. Don't worry your mate about monetary matters.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Keep home ties and outside partners apart so that no disagreements can arise. Take no risks while driving on the highway.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) It is best to get your tasks completed first and later you can take care of outside interests. Avoid that tendency to drive too fast.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't get into expensive pleasures which you would later regret. Your mate and an expert could get into a heated disagreement.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't argue with close ties over some plans they do not like, but quietly go about your business and get the right results you expect.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A friend needs help but give it confidentially. Don't neglect communications which are vital to your welfare and success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be loyal to generous pals and go along with them and forget practical affairs which are intricate for the time being.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your own ideas may be quite different from those of a higher-up, but don't disagree, and try to compromise. Improve your relationship.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Stop fretting, and get into new interests at which you can be most effective and gain added income from all of your activities.

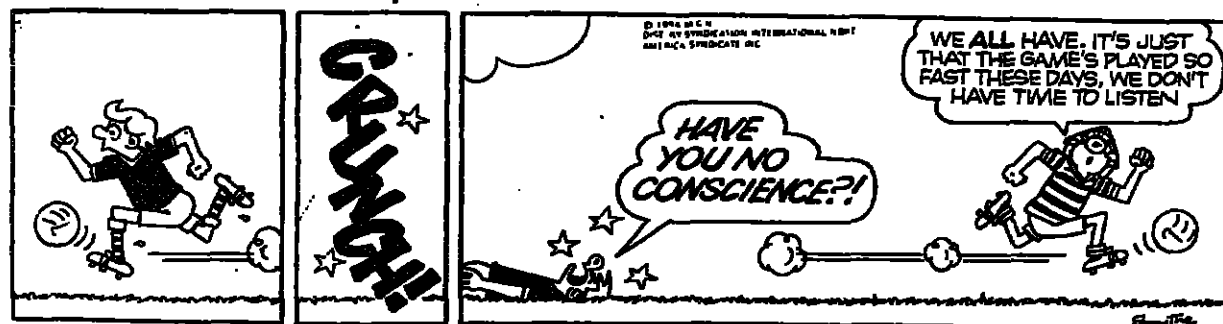
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your mate could have a disagreement with an outsider, but don't mix in and it will soon be over, everyone will be completely calm.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An associate could be of more help to you now than a higher-up, so gain support from him or her on an important project you are involved in.

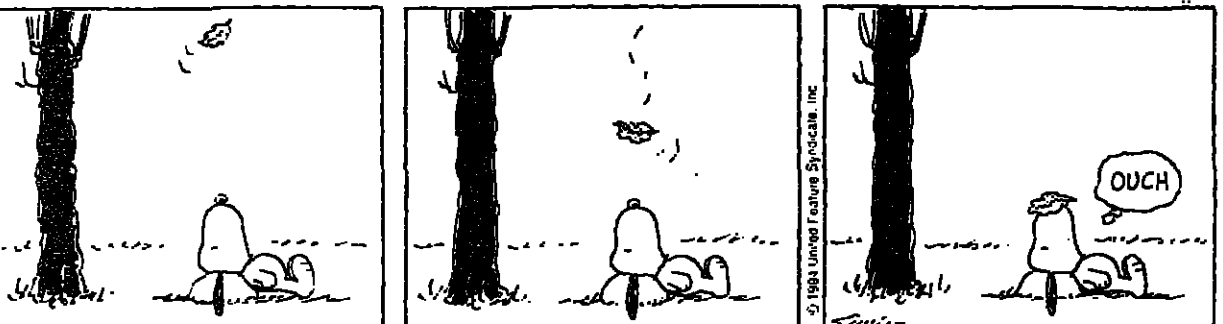
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There are new interests coming into your life which should at least be studied. Listen to what a high class new contact has to suggest.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

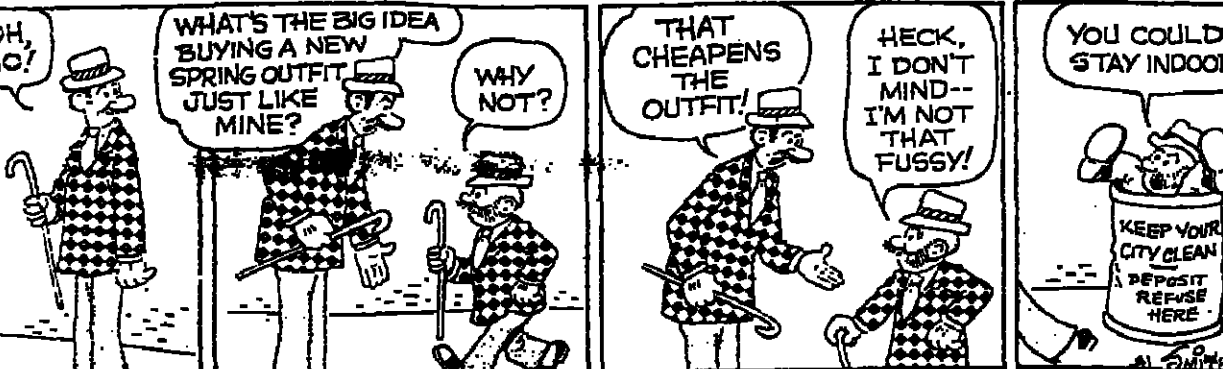
Peanuts



Andy Capp

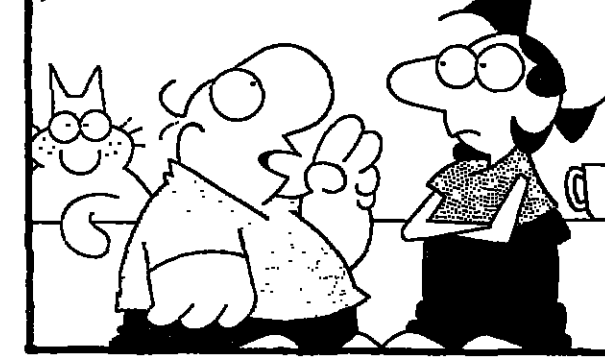


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOYGS
EXIDO
MYDOBE
DEFLAB

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

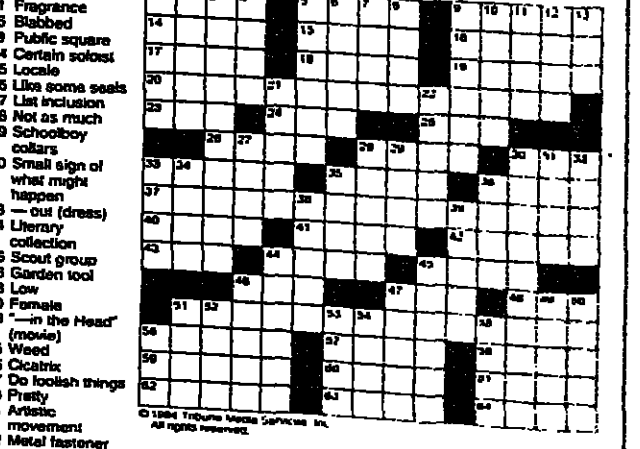
Answer: HIS

Yesterday's Jumbles: DALLY BROOD TEMPER WOEFUL

Answer: What the art thief said he was—FRAMED

THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin



Across
1 Fragrance
5 Blinded
9 Public square
14 Certain solist
15 Locals
16 Like some seals
17 List inclusion
18 Not as much
19 Schoolboy
20 Small sign of what might happen
23 — out (dress)
24 Literary collection
25 Scout group
26 Garden tool
28 Low
29 Famine
30 — in the head (movie)
35 Weed
36 Clashes
37 Do foolish things
41 Pratty
42 Artistic movement
43 Metal fastener
44 Kindly labor
45 Out of kilter
46 Heavy
47 — of character
48 Sports gp.
51 Selfish fellow
56 Type
57 Hobnob
58 Space or drama
59 Like some cereals
60 Classic, for short
62 Harness horse
63 Chance upon
64 Purts out

Down
2 Ailsa
3 Ailsa
4 Ailsa
6 Field of action
7 Check shelter
8 Sword mark
10 Babel's tower
11 Elms — Presley
12 Zoroastrian sacred writings
13 Commercial
15 Rose
16 Rose
17 Famous Ford
22 Medicinal herb
23 Long
24 Vulgar
25 Song
26 Hyacinth, e.g.
27 Lanthorn
28 Formerly
29 formerly
30 Author Sholem
34 Time of day
35 Autocut

36 Stan
37 Ailsa
38 Translating offering
39 Foreigners
40 Intervened about
41 Be the with
42 Dime
43 White matter
44 Neck feature
45 Octave

46 Tele. appur
47 Surfactant
48 Euphoric
49 Intervened about
50 Be the with
51 Dime
52 White matter
53 Neck feature
54 Octave

U.N. chief tells Africa to learn from Asia

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PROSCOPE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1994

1. Aerospace

2. A good day for... spending time with... have any time back...

3. 1994 It was a... and creative activities... story matters

4. day 20 Keep home... can arise. Take...

5. 21 It is best to get... take care of... first

6. 22 In July 20... will later regret... disagreement

7. 23 When I argue with... of quality...

8. 24 A friend who... of a... with...

9. 25 The local... largest...

10. The November... of a... of...

11. 27 In December... of a... of...

12. 28 In January... of a... of...

13. 29 In February... of a... of...

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48. 64 In January... of a... of...

49. 65 In February... of a... of...

50. 66 In March... of a... of...

51. 67 In April... of a... of...

52. 68 In May... of a... of...

53. 69 In June... of a... of...

Weekender

The real challenge lies ahead

By Mohammad Mashariga

Oct. 26, 1994 will be remembered by Jordanians as a crucial and decisive date in the history of this region and in the Jordanian society's development.

Today in the light of the peace treaty, we are face-to-face with a new and a stark reality the likes of which we have not seen before. The peace treaty with Israel, like the scientific and technological revolution, has removed the barriers and opened the way for cultural interactions and opened the door for free exchange of goods and visitors, in an unlimited manner and without the need for knowing their source or origin and without any ethnic, religious or political prejudices.

Indeed, cultural openness has been in place and in practice through the years of hostility between the Arabs and their former historic enemy — Israel. All the political speeches on the Arab part never stopped Arab citizens from tuning in to Israeli radio and television programmes. All the speeches of those that oppose the peace treaty with Israel never prevented Jordanians from watching an Israeli folk troupe or an American film on Israeli television.

In my view, we as a Jordanian society and our intellectuals are now facing an awareness test. We are facing a controversial fact that has affected our daily lives. Soon we will be facing Israeli goods, Israeli culture, Israeli art and probably later Israeli investors invading our markets. What is our answer

to all these changes or are we preparing for this new stage?

I believe we cannot force the masses to adopt one attitude. Our options are diverse and open to us and we have to respect the right and the choice of all individuals because they are not herds of sheep.

Unity of will, unity of thinking and absolute or blind obedience were qualities that characterised those epochs of history when the Nazis and the Communists ruled supreme in their own spheres.

Having accepted democracy and political pluralism as a system and way of life we have to comply with and abide by their rules and their norms. Any tampering with them could constitute a grave danger to society as a whole — especially with the experiments of Egypt and Algeria still fresh in our minds.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

For this reason I call for a peaceful, objective dialogue to reconcile attitudes and views. We should not fear debate as long as we have accepted the rules of democracy within the framework of the Constitution. It is the duty of the government to organise such a dialogue through its official information channels and so contribute to the enrichment of public debate over the country's future.

I believe that Jordan abounds with persons who can defend its policies and stands. So far our stand

seemed uncertain as we failed to properly handle the peace treaty with Israel. Officials in charge of information services resorted to obsolete and old patterns and methods that are resented by the people in order to interpret the treaty or win public support.

We are going through a serious development, determining our destiny and therefore we are in need of the open-minded media that really appreciates ideas that cater to the requirements of the spirit of the modern age.

When for instance our official media outlets present the four million people of Jordan as totally supporting the peace treaty and normalisation with Israel and ready to welcome Jews in their homes "because we are generous and hospitable Arabs who never turn away a visitor" we feel that, that media is not being objective and that such approach is unacceptable, nor can it be justified.

It seems that our media leaders are unaware of the fact that many Jordanians of Palestinian origin continue to hold on — generation after generation — to the keys of their homes in occupied Palestine. They also seem to have forgotten that the psychological, religious and ideological barriers between us and the Jews are still in place. Israel has yet to do a great deal to prove its good intentions and to offer concessions to the Arabs. The future is for the peoples of this region who still aspire to have a stable, secure and prosperous life.

It goes without saying that the Jordanian citizen

has not yet felt that anything in his or her life has changed. How then can he be expected to display pleasure and express joy over the treaty overnight?

Instead of the premature applauding, the media ought to involve itself in national workshops to discuss all aspects of the treaty that would affect our lives. This is needed if we hope to ensure that the coming stage would be working in our favour and not at our expense. We have to prepare for the coming stage through our laws, investments, education, information, tourism and we have to watch for time which runs fast. We have to work diligently and seriously.

Akram Masraweh, director of the Jerash Festival for arts and Culture, recently said: "Jordanian poets, and artists who confine their production to the local scene will now be forced to expand their horizons and extend their work from the village to the city and to the whole region and the world at large."

The same thing applies to our industries, agriculture, teaching methods, school curricula and also the style of our daily life which has been somewhat too relaxed as we continue to rely on the state for sustenance.

Let us heed the words of His Majesty King Hussein in his address to Parliament: "Let us put this stage behind us and start afresh in reorganising the most minute details of our lives."

Indeed, the real challenge lies in the future not in the past.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

TIMES IN HIGH PLACES: Nearly everyone who heard U.S. President Bill Clinton's speech to Parliament following the signing of the peace accord between Jordan and Israel on Oct. 26 must have also caught bits and pieces of a comment he made to His Majesty King Hussein about the Jordan Times moments before the two leaders entered the main chamber. Short of asking the two statesmen themselves what exactly was said, we consulted associates with what we believed to be extraordinary auditory perception to tell us what they had heard.

One of them quoted the president as telling the King: "Your Majesty, I was reading the Jordan Times (just before I came here) and found it in good articles about the opposition!" Another heard the president to be saying: "Your Majesty, the Jordan Times today carried good articles about you and the opposition." A third made this out of the president's remark: "I read the Jordan Times today and I found its coverage to be balanced. I read a great article about you and others about the opposition."

In all cases, our associates overheard the King's reply, "This is democracy," over the open microphone to President Clinton; which leads us to believe that the third quotation might have been the most accurate.

But whatever was precisely said, the Jordan Times took it as a recognition of its efforts to be objective, useful and informative, thus contributing further to the people's "right to know" and to Jordan's democratisation process.

WHY THE WAIT AND WHO CAME: While our democratisation is in fact proceeding well, there is much to be done before catching up with the kind of democracy practised in the U.S. today, assuming, that is, we want that type of democracy in the first place.

In any case, you need only look at two examples from the Clinton trip to Jordan and Israel last week to see what we mean. In the first instance, while officials nervously perspired over the president's hour and a half delay in appearing before the Parliament to deliver his address, Clinton was actually ready but simply allowing time for the American press corps to arrive in Amman from Aqaba.

In the second example, the U.S.'s ever-evolving democratisation process was evidenced last week by the list of people the U.S. president invited to peace treaty signing ceremony; not only were there politicians, there were doctors, lawyers, religious chiefs and a healthy number of businesspersons.

Two days prior to the signing, President Clinton's 66 confirmed "guests" received an update from the White House Office of Public Liaison containing important information about departure, hotel accommodations, a revised schedule, tips on what to wear and bring, and how much lighter the trip would make their wallets. The combined approximate cost for transportation (ground, in-country and overseas fares) put at a hefty \$3,650 for a three-day, two-night journey for peace, could pay one year's rent for a semi-villa in the University of Jordan environs. Room (\$125 per night) and meal charges at proprietor Sami Sawalha's Regency Palace Hotel were extra.

But to these guests the opportunity to witness the signing of an event for which many of them had long been working either professionally or personally, was worth every bit of the expense, jet lag and sunburn.

Now one on-the-mark presidential invitee prepared a press release about her attendance at the signing, which the J.T. published, albeit perhaps a bit too prominently on that historic Wednesday. But for those who are curious about who else may have made the trip with the Democrat from Arkansas and his three plane-loads of guests, staff and press corps, here is an assorted sampling.

Among the more recognisable names (such as Senator Dennis DeConcini, former congresspersons Anthony (Toby) Moffett and Mary Rose Oaker, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, CBS Chairman Laurence Tisch, and Editor-in-Chief of U.S. News And World Report Mortimer Zuckerman), were a relatively even distribution of other American Jews and Arabs, a sprinkling of Christians, a few senior African-American clerics and others. Almost all

those invited have considerable interest in Middle East affairs, many are members of Builders for Peace and Americans for Peace Now, and without question, several invitees are influential supporters of the Democratic Party and the current administration.

By all accounts, presidential invitee Issa B. Cook is the proverbial U.S. "melting pot" immigrant success story. Born in Ramallah in 1935, Cook (who may well have had a name change) immigrated to the U.S. in 1973 after a six-year period with Royal Jordanian (then called ALIA) in Rome and London. He started a travel agency in Houston, Texas, and in less than a decade had a staff roster of 110 employees and annual sales of \$30 million to \$35 million. He sold the agency and moved into real estate. Cook, who is on the executive committee of the American Ramallah Federation Educational Fund and a member of the Board of Builders for Peace, is now constructing condominiums in Ramallah.

Jack C. Bendheim, president of Philipp Brothers Chemicals, Inc., chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturers, was invited. Bendheim, a father of seven, was vice president of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), vice chairman of the Israel Policy Forum and founding chairman of the Yeshiva University High Schools.

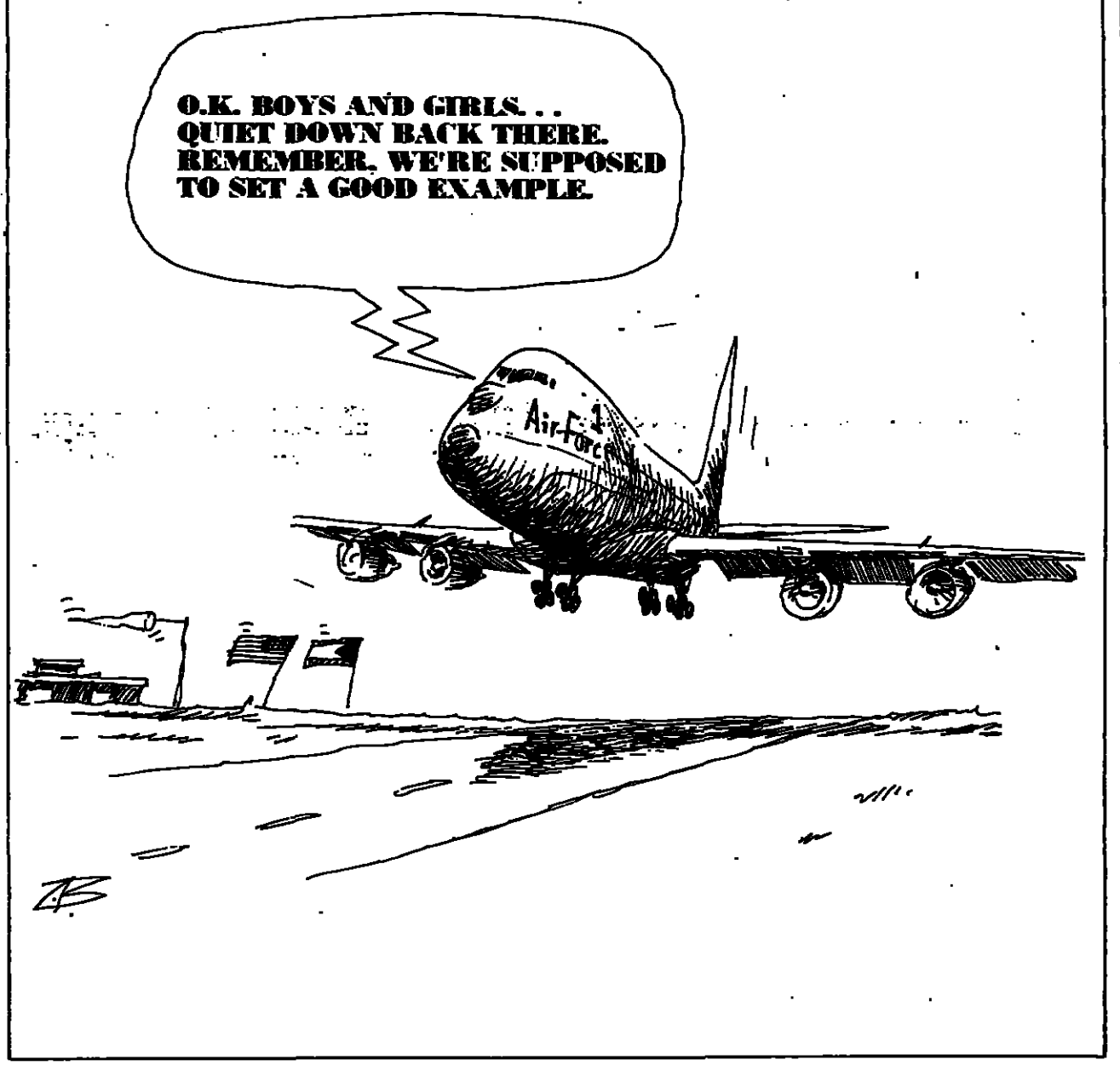
Stanley M. Chesley of Cincinnati, Ohio was probably a good choice since his experience may have been useful to Clinton on the domestic as well as international front. Chesley, a litigation attorney, is said to have extensive knowledge of the health care industry, and his philanthropic work involved in a tenure as national vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal.

Considered a rising star among his supporters, twice-elected Bridgeport, Connecticut, Mayor Joseph P. Ganim is the grandson of Lebanese and Syrian immigrants. A Democrat, Ganim was said to be successful in restoring his city's fiscal stability by balancing the budget for three consecutive years and by avoiding a tax increase for the past two years. He is active in Middle Eastern and Arab-American concerns. He is only 34. And yes, he is taken. His wife Jennifer is a strategic planner at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Beth and Ronald Dozoretz are without doubt an active, ambitious and highly successful team. With offices in Norfolk, Virginia (home to one of the U.S.'s largest naval bases), and residences on Manhattan's posh Park Avenue and Virginia Beach's seaside getaway, the dynamic Dozoretz duo run First Hospital Corporation, said to be the U.S.'s largest privately held mental health company. Psychiatrist Ronald Dozoretz is a trustee of the National Democratic Party, member of the White House Health Reform Task Force and a major contributor to the United Jewish Federation. Wife and business partner Beth spent 17 years in the retail and wholesale clothing business as a buyer. The Dozoretz's raised \$100,000 for Clinton's presidential campaign by hosting a health care dinner in Washington.

Omar Kader, a Palestinian-American born in the predominantly Mormon state of Utah, is a professor of international relations and now heads a Washington-based consulting firm that is the only Arab-American enterprise recognised by the U.S. Small Business Administration as a small disadvantaged minority firm. A Democratic Party activist, Dr. Kader had served also as executive director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the United Palestinian Appeal.

The only Jordanian-American to be invited was Saint Louis urologist Ibrahim Hawatmeh. As current president of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), the Amman-born, Italian-educated Hawatmeh took time away from his private practice and teaching responsibilities at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine to be part of the ceremony. "I would not have missed the opportunity to come home and be here on this historic day for anything," Hawatmeh said. "The experience has simply been tremendous, even though one barely had time to see the family and how Jordan has changed to the better over the past few years."



IT WAS A BUSY WEEK: As if envious of the power of the U.S. media moguls, Chairman of the Board of the Jordan Press Foundation (Al Ra'i) Mahmoud Al Kayed and Al Ra'i columnist Tareq Masarweh blasted the Ministry of Information for its delay in releasing the official text of the peace treaty in advance of the signing of the accord. At the least, said Al Kayed and Masarweh, the official news organisations should have been able to deliver on par with their Israeli counterparts who had supplied the text of the treaty to the press much earlier than any Jordanian did. According to Al Kayed and Masarweh, the local press here obtained the text via Haaretz, an Israeli paper.

As is customary, though, and to make up for the admitted snafu and in gesture of attempted reconciliation, Minister of Information Jawad Anani hosted a lunch for senior members of the press, including of course Al Kayed and Masarweh. Can you guess who was the no-show?

FAMILY HONOUR: In a variation on a theme, family honour became an issue over last week's signing of the peace treaty. Upper House of Parliament Member Ghaith Shubeilat (well-known plastic surgeon-appointed senator) was reported to have received a letter from his brother Laith Shubeilat (engineer-turned politician-turned engineer), urging the mild-mannered senator not to support the peace treaty. Brother Laith prefaced his appeal by saying that while he himself had withdrawn from the political life, he would not want to see his brother tarnish the name of their late father who died fighting for the cause. "And what about our fathers?" others cried. Does the president of the Jordanian Engineers Association hold his lineage above the rest, they asked.

'DAYS OFF': And now that the "weekend" has arrived, read how Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment employee Zaki Shamaileh Ibrahim slipped the nascent peace accord into a petition for additional "days off." One of many

well-wishers who wrote to congratulate newly-appointed Judge Khleif Suheimat on his promotion up the judicial ladder, Ibrahim included in his note to the judge what might be called an "annex." In it the civil servant demanded that the government pay him for all the Saturdays he has worked at the ministry since 1981 because, Ibrahim said, Saturdays for him are holy days, not only for those of the Jewish faith, but for all descendants of Abraham. "My ministry forced me to work on such holy days since my appointment, while I observed Friday for performing prayers," Ibrahim wrote to Judge Suheimat. Therefore, Ibrahim added, he would inform his employers that he would be taking Saturday's off and would demand that the ministry issue him backpay for all 632 Saturdays he reported to work since 1981, otherwise, he said, he would sue the government.

WHERE THERE'S PEACE THERE'S HOPE: To end on a happy note, the peace accord may also bless the life of one young Jordanian named Hiba Shaban. J.T. readers may recall the story of this 12-year-old girl from Zarqa who suffers from the fatal bone marrow disease known as aplastic anaemia. Following the publishing of Hiba's story, the J.T. received several calls from Jordanian individuals and others asking how they might help Hiba get the medical attention she required. Hiba's father visited the J.T. to report that he had received some very kind and generous assistance and that he planned to take Hiba to the U.S. for a bone marrow transplant, the only hope for survival, say doctors, in patients such as Hiba. Now that decades of barriers have been brought down, almost in our own "backyard," Hiba and her family are reportedly planning to travel a much shorter distance to Israel to help save her life. With the help and support from caring people here at home and those who will seek to make her well again in Israel, all pray for Hiba's healthy recovery, because in the end, peace is for all, especially the children of today.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Instant gratification

By Jean-Claude Elias

Industry giants, generally speaking, want us to believe that buying their products will ensure us instant, painless gratification. Nothing is more wrong.

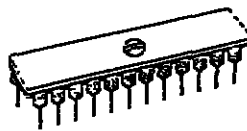
Trying to programme a new VCR (video cassette recorder) immediately after taking it out of its box usually leads to disappointment if not frustration. Even an experienced person needs to go through the manufacturer's supplied user manual, for each new model follows a new procedure. And this is just a VCR!

Yamaha and Roland — two major Japanese designers and producers of sophisticated electronic musical instruments — offer an amazing range of synthesizers and integrated "music stations." These machines are based on a piano-like keyboard design and can simultaneously produce a very wide array of sounds, close to realistic instruments — piano, organ, flute, drums, and so on — all arranged in an orchestral form.

One or more short demonstration pieces are built in the synthesizer. Just push a button and an astounding, true-to-life musical ensemble will start playing for you, realistic enough to make any reasonable person want to buy the machine. Although the system is designed to allow the user to arrange and play similar structures, achieving this is far beyond pressing just one button. It takes skills, taste, musicianship and above all, it requires going through a learning process. We are already past the simple VCR. An American critic recently wrote in the specialised Electronic Musician magazine: "Are you writing a song or launching the space shuttle?"

The world of Personal Computer (PC) offers an incredible set of software and hardware options. Word Processing and spreadsheets aside, most of them however are oriented towards specialised tasks. Corel Draw for instance is a superb drawing software package. AutoCad is an engineering computer-aided

chip talk



design programme. Cakewalk is a sequence — a multi-track music recording and editing system — and PhotoShop is a photograph editing and processing package.

Professionals know very well that they have to carefully select the software they need and then spend some time learning it. They tend to concentrate on a limited number — usually one or two — or programmes in order to reach a high level of efficiency in using them. Un-informed, or should we say mis-informed, users sometimes get caught in the trap set for them by attractive advertisement that promises to turn them, overnight, into artists, musicians, engineers or others.

Except for heaven sent luck, or winning a lottery grand prize, there is no such thing in life as instant reward. This is a general rule that applies to almost everything we do. Nobody ignores it but most people seem to fall to catchy advertising. It's only human. The first time I saw a demonstration of Corel Draw on a PC screen, the beauty of the images, the sharpness of the contours, the brightness, the realism of the colours and the limitless transformations one could do on the drawing made me think I could be Rembrandt or Renoir the next day.

We are all allowed to dream. We should dream every now and then and the computer industry is an excellent supplier of dreams. We should however be able to distinguish between dreams and reality.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

CURIOUS SUPERSTITIONS

THUMB: Those whose thumbs are short are described as being stubborn and confident of their faculties.

In case their thumbs are long, they have good intuition, shy but perseverant. If the thumbs are short and rough and often conceal them in their palms, they are wild human beings.

On the other side, if they put unintentionally their thumbs between the middle and forefingers when closing their hands, they seem to seek protection from other people.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BIS: It is a kind of bird living in cold wet water which has long legs and beak. He who comes across the ibis will recover from colic whatever type this pain seems to be.

The bird's capability, as some people believe, lies in the fact that its beak is quite similar to that of an enema.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

I love her for her morals and vivacity.
Ohibbaha le-akh'laqha wa-khiffati roo'he'ha.
She is the mistress of my dreams.

Innaha fatat ahlami.
Innaha huiwa wa-latifa.
She is in full bloom.
Innaha fee awji nadaratilaha.
She is well-schooled in etiquette.

Innaha mullimmas bil-etikait.
Hobbi laha ameeq wa-shadeed.
My love for her is deep and touching.

Her amiable image still dwells pleasantly in my memory.
nna sooratahal habiba ma zalat maathilatan fee zehmi.
I wouldn't have her altered for the whole world.

Lan arda bel-salam kolilhi badeelan anha.
I'll ask her hand from her father.

Sawfa atlob yadaha min waalideha.
I'll also get her a nice necklace with diamonds as well as a gold bracelet.

awfa odir laha aydan jamilan murass'an bil-mass wa-iswaratan zahabiya.

TIME FOR FUN

On his birthday morning, the wife stamped a hot kiss on her husband's cheek saying:

"I know quite well that you like music and singing. Which record would you like me to buy for you?"

With a deep sigh, he replied: "The record of 'silence', please!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

M Two married friends were chatting when the first asked the other:

— "At what time do you feel complete comfort and happiness?"

— "Between three and six o'clock."

— "Why? Do you sleep during these hours?"

— "No, but my wife does," answered the second.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WIFE: "If only I were a newspaper."

HUSBAND: "Why?"

WIFE: "Because you never part with books or papers."

"HUSBAND: "I wish you were a calendar."
WIFE: "Why?"

HUSBAND: "Because we get rid of it every year and replace it by a new one."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ SHE: "Get out of my house now, show me the last of you and never return."

HE: "But there's still something I'd like to ask."

SHE: "What could it be? Speak out."

HE: "Please rise from my lap."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

ART

1. Who was Praxiteles?
2. To what does "still life" refer?
3. Why was Tinteretto so-called?
4. What is a scarab?
5. Who was known as the Corot of America?

TODAY'S DISH STUFFED EGGPLANT (Batinjan Mah'shi)

INGREDIENTS

6 small eggplants.
½ cup rice, soaked in water 15 minutes.
½ pound diced lamb.
Salt and pepper to taste.
A large ripe tomatoe, diced.
Scoop out centres of unpeeled eggplants. Soak for 10 minutes with 1 tablespoon salt in pan of water. Combine rice, meat and seasoning. Stuff eggplants about three quarters full. Place eggplants around pan (tops up). Pour 2 cups of water around them. Cover and cook on low fire 25 minutes. Add tomatoes and simmer 10 minutes longer.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

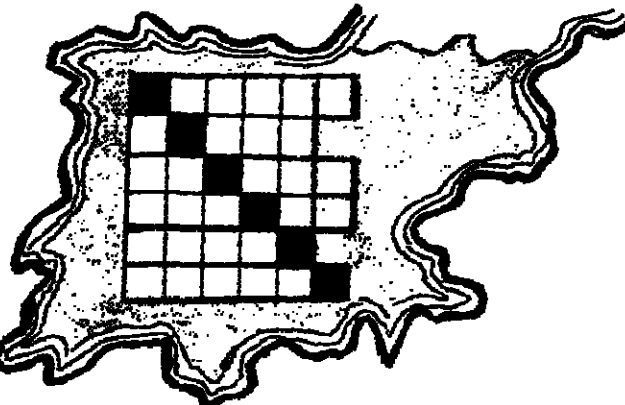
PERPLEXITIES

IBERIAN

The thirty-four letters below can be so arranged in the diagram as to make the name of a Spanish or Portuguese town in each of the six lines across.

If this has been done correctly, all the letters will have been used and the shaded diagonal line will make the name of a seventh town — a Spanish one.

A A B B D E G G I I I J L L N N
O O O O O O O P P R R S S T T U V



A critical eye and a quiet word, heart to heart

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

A new story is currently being told here in Jordan. Moreover, its people, have the power, the ability and the collective will to shape the way it will unfold. Our modern world is most certainly very different from the one that our fathers and grandfathers grew up in. Not only is the social reality more diverse, but a new dimension is currently being juxtaposed onto our economic, cultural and political domains. We are witnessing the birth of an era where Jordan can no more be bogged down within the notions of imperialist domination and Israeli expansionism; for the first time ever, all of Jordan's boundaries are recognised and demarcated. As far as this new Jordan is concerned, it can no longer afford to "sit on the fence" at a time when it has to look after its own interest.

The exceptional circumstances of the past few days here in this country may have put us up against the greatest venture of our lives, but we have the knowledge that is needed to figure out the mechanisms that will take us along the new path, the path of peace between two peoples, that has already been marked out for us?

The people of Jordan are being informed to expect a lot of changes — many of which may be for the better — enough changes to make a weekly tabloid's headline that proclaimed last week "America adopts

Jordan" totally justified. But amidst all these promises of economic prosperity and freedom in the future lies a policy issue that we, the future generations, should be calling for: Wanting to get involved in all this. We can at least be thankful that it is now widely acknowledged that there is a need to involve the younger generation of Jordanians in the decision making processes; it is how we can go about doing it that is perplexing. Nevertheless while we cannot but appreciate all the efforts and achievements of our elder compatriots and mainstream politicians over the past fifty years or more, the time is now more than appropriate for a passing of the mantle to that younger generation. But again, we should want to get involved, and not just for the sake of getting involved nor to make names for ourselves either, but for the collective good of this great country of ours. If we truly desire to make the peace between ourselves and the people of Israel succeed, we have to step into the picture. Only then will we truly feel that we belong to the new Middle East whose conception we are witnessing and whose future we can chart. Armed with courage, knowledge and faith in the leadership of the country, we, all of us in Jordan, can make all our dreams come true.

The world of the latter part of the 1990s as we draw nearer to the next millennium is an extremely dynamic and multifaceted organism that requires dynamic individuals with a global approach and an illuminating grasp of new realities.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 3

8:30 My Secret Identity

9:10 Snowy River

Will Victoria go against her father's wishes and not marry Luke?

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — One Against The Wind

The film tells the story of a French countess who fights against the German occupation of her country.

11:50 Never The Twain

Simon and Oliver cooperate to nail down a corrupt lawyer.

Friday, Nov. 4

7:15 On Location

Meet Lloyd Bridges in scenes from his outstanding films.

7:30 African Skies

Attempts to blow up the dam over Jaba River succeed, when Margo steps in.

9:10 Tequila And Banetti

Banetti's car is stolen and delivered to a car-dealer. His dog, Tequila, gets to work.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

The family moves to the city where life seems so different from what they had known.

11:00 Coming Of Age

Saturday, Nov. 5

7:30 Black Beauty

The Race

An attempt to kill Black Beauty after it wins the race against one of the quickest horses in the area.

8:30 Home Improvement

Pilot

While Tim calls for men to take part in house adjustments, the dishwasher blows up in his face, as he tries to fix it.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Thursday's Child

A man is found dead at his house after getting into trouble with another man. Jessica gets to work immediately.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Sound And The Silence

Starring: John Bach and Ian Bannen

The second part of Alexander Graham Bell's life story and the road to success.

Sunday, Nov. 6

7:30 FBI: The Untold Stories

Baby Nap

A woman is sentenced to an 18-year imprisonment after she kidnaps a newly-born baby. The FBI steps in to find out the reason.

8:20 You Bet Your Life

More winners and losers on Bill Cosby's quiz show.

9:10 Sherlock Holmes

An Incident At Victoria Falls

10:00 News In English

10:20 Search For Scarlett

11:30 The Upper Hand

The Babysitter

The parents leave their little kid for the daughter to take care of but upon coming back, they find that their house has been turned into a complete mess.

Monday, Nov. 7

7:10 Movies, Games, and Videos

A look at most recent widely-used computer games and movies in Britain.

8:30 Coach

Blue Chip's Blue

Hayden's big efforts are doomed to fail after his friend decides not to join the Minnesota football team.

9:10 Columbus And The Age Of Discovery

In Search For Columbus

A journey with Christopher Columbus and his discoveries of new lands in Central America and Africa.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Secrets Of Lake Success

A woman pretends she's dead in an attempt to find out the people involved in trying to corrupt her company.

Tuesday, Nov. 8

7:10 Documentary — The Nature Of Things

A look at how oil can be both a grace, being the main lifeline of several industries, as well as a curse, being one cause for the destruction of nature and the environment.

8:30 The New Leave It To Beaver

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

Cross The Centre Line

A woman police officer is cleared of suspicion of theft. Her saviour is a ghost which guides her to ultimately find the right suspect.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Eliott

More problems arise between the two sisters, Bee and Eve, as the latter's relationship with Daniel, the painter, grows stronger.

11:00 Fly By Night

Include Me Out

Mark is cleared of suspicion in the murder of an old lady who dies on a plane after she gets robbed.

Wednesday, Nov. 9

7:10 Battlerstar Galactica

Fire In Space

The wounded leader offers a plan to rescue Galactica in which a big fire breaks out.

9:10 Documentary — Cracking The Code

Accidents Of Creation

A look at the Darwin Theory of Evolution and how it comes to discuss the development of man and the other species.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Poldark

Ozbourne pays dearly after being caught courting another woman.

11:10 The Exile

The life of an American lady is threatened after being kidnapped by a professional gang in Paris. John and his two partners come to her rescue.

'Fame' school may help wipe out Liverpool's notoriety

By Peter Millership

Reuter

LIVERPOOL, England — Once the imperial gateway of the industrial revolution, Liverpool had more millionaires than any other British city.

A century later, the Beatles made their home town synonymous with 1960s pop culture, but the decline had long since set in.

Now former Beatle Paul McCartney is trying to make the moribund port swing again as a centre of learning, arts and entertainment.

Liverpool will soon be home to a performing arts school founded by McCartney and hopes to be chosen as Britain's City of Architecture and Design in 1999.

The blighted city, split by racial tensions and shaken by last year's horrific murder of toddler Jamie Bulger, wants to turn the page of history.

"It seemed to touch a raw nerve simultaneously

all around the world," council leader Harry Rimmer said of the murder of Bulger by two 10-year-olds. "There were so many unfair conclusions drawn about the city. We want to correct the image."

Bulger's killing brought an outpouring of grief and outrage over juvenile delinquency and was widely reported in countries suffering similar crime problems, or parts of the old empire keen to condemn the state of British society.

"We've taken a lot of knocks as a city," said Rob Fraser coordinating Liverpool's bid to be City of Architecture. "If we win this it'll be a great morale-booster and will determine how the city reinvents its identity for the next century."

With two cathedrals, its restored Albert Dock and its liver, Cunard and Port of Liverpool buildings on the waterfront, Liverpool is confident.

"We want to promote

the rich heritage we have," Mr. Fraser said, adding: "But we want to move forward with new projects. We don't want to end up another theme park."

Civic leaders have also woken up to the Liverpool tourist trail and now visitors can see a permanent Beatles exhibition at the Albert Dock and visit Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields, immortalised in Beatles songs.

In another effort to heal the scars of Liverpool's battle with recession and crime, the European Union has granted the city objective one status, acknowledging its deep economic troubles and worth £2 billion (\$3.2 billion) in the next five years.

EU cash will also be used to help fund McCartney's Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts (LIPA), partly inspired by the New York High School for the Performing Arts featured in the film Fame and its spin-off tele-

vision series. It opens next year in a refurbished 19th century building which housed McCartney's boyhood school.

In its pop heyday, this ebullient city on the River Mersey gave birth to a wave of groups, whose sound was known collectively as "Merseybeat." It has produced countless prominent artists including a whole group of poets such as Adrian Henri and Roger McGough, actors Glenda Jackson and Rex Harrison and conductor Sir Simon Rattle.

"We've got a lot to show off about," Mr. Rimmer said.

LIPA joins two thriving universities, a distinguished school of tropical medicine and Britain's oldest school of architecture. The city has 80,000 students, making education big business.

"Paul first took up the idea after a guy from Toxteth said to him after the riots that Liverpool

needed a fame school to put it back on the map," McCartney aide Geoff Baker said.

Liverpool suffered badly during the great depression of the 1930s and after World War II trade moved to other European cities, leaving Liverpool, in England's northwest, stranded.

The city's population mirrors its fortunes, peaking in 1937 at 867,000, 745,000 in 1961, 610,000 in 1971 and 460,000 today. The 1980s were a bleak period in the city's history. Modernising docks shed jobs, factories closed, social tensions rose and then Toxteth rioted. The council came under the sway of left-wing radicals.

Housing projects helped transform poor neighbourhoods, although areas of dereliction remain, and the city centre has some of the most imaginatively designed shopping precincts in Britain.

In Toxteth itself, the

fight against inner-city decay is evident. On one street, workmen build a new housing project. On another youths in back-to-front caps and smart trainers sell drugs from doorways.

"We're still suffering from the riots down here," said one young resident. "It seems to be on the mend but we're still known as the blacks who beat up and set fire to things."

Some houses still bear smoke traces from the rioting more than 10 years later and others have their windows sealed with corrugated iron sheeting.

With unemployment at 19 per cent of the work force, Liverpool's escape from the poverty trap is still far off. Unemployment amongst young blacks in Toxteth is 40 per cent.

"Traditionally, Merseyside was always the first to be hit by recession and the last to feel the benefit of recovery," said



Paul McCartney

Professor Michael Parkinson, an expert in urban affairs.

"It's wise to target tourism, education,

architecture and culture as areas with potential rather than whine on about areas we lost out on," Prof. Parkinson said.

Star of first Asian American sitcom is ready for prime time

By Dara Akiko Tom

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Margaret Cho loves being a part of the glitz and glamour of Hollywood.

She loves the late-night lifestyle of Hollywood's young, decadent, up-and-coming stars. It's even better when strangers snap her picture as she's walking into a club.

But outside the limelight, Cho admits privately that she's come to an important realization. "I'm a big egomaniac," she says.

Though her transition from standup comedy to situation comedy has been fairly smooth, Cho, star of

All-American Girl, Hollywood's first sitcom featuring an Asian-American family, admits that the move was difficult at first.

"I'm coming from a place where I had complete control," she says of her solo standup routines. "I never thought I had an ego."

All that changed when she began sharing the spotlight with eight cast members of the ABC-TV show.

Initially, she says, "I always want to be the funny one. I always want to be the centre."

But she's found that yielding to others isn't so bad.

"You have to be really kind of focused," she says, "and that does not lend itself to the one always being funny."

Cho admits that her rise has been relatively swift. After being kicked out of Lowell High School in San Francisco, she graduated from an arts school.

At age 18, she was doing standup and, by 20, she was appearing in cable shows. She recently starred in her own HBO special.

Now, at 25, she's ready for prime time — and vice versa.

The idea of an Asian-American family on the networks is nothing new, but it has taken a few

years for television executives to give such a show their blessing.

The San Francisco native isn't shy about touting All-American Girl as a first for Hollywood.

"I think it's a really important thing to say that that's what it is," she said in a recent telephone interview from Los Angeles.

There are other people, including Asian-American actors, who tire of toting ethnicity as part of the show, she admits.

"I've always looked at mine as an incredible advantage. I don't think it's ever been a negative thing at all. I celebrate it, if anything," she says. "I haven't felt like I've com-

promised myself culturally or artistically. I've felt very fortunate that I haven't had to change."

All-American Girl follows a Korean household of two immigrant parents, a grandmother, and a daughter and son.

Cho plays the 22-year-old Margaret Kim, a college student working at a department store. Her younger brother, played by B.D. Wong, perhaps best-known for his role in the Broadway play M. Butterfly, is a model citizen whom the parents favour.

In the show, similar to her childhood, Cho struggles with holding onto Korean traditions while lap-

ping up American pop culture.

"It's a combination of cultural differences with the kind of grim reality with people in their 20s and over having to still live at home," she says.

In real life, Cho and her younger brother grew up mostly at their parents' bookstore. Her parents pushed their only daughter to learn Korean and pursue a more traditional career.

Cho says it was tough convincing her parents that leaving their native country in 1964 in hopes of providing better opportunities for their children wasn't a mistake.

"When they realised it

was something I wanted to do in my life, that really worried them," she says of comedy.

"They thought I'd be throwing my life away," she says.

In fact, the Chos had never seen their daughter perform live — in school plays or comedy clubs — until watching a filming of All-American Girl.

"They're really happy now," she says.

Cho says Richard Pryor has been a major influence on her comedy, especially his concert film, Live On The Sunset Strip. "He just talked about his life in an honest, insightful way. It was like he was sharing so much from

his life that you almost didn't notice that cultural difference. He's so wonderful, but very, very black. He's just a genius."

She hopes that her show will have the same effect, Asian-American style.

"It will help (viewers) understand our life, understand our foreignness, show the idea of what America is and how America has changed with immigration," she says.

"My agenda is the agenda of the Asian-American community. That is a positive, honest portrayal of the family. And it will be incredible validating and powerful."

For first Nobel film, Swedish director emulates Bergman

By Johan Rapp

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — A film about Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel might be expected to focus on his invention of dynamite, or perhaps on his endowment of the most prestigious prizes in the world.

For those familiar with Swedish film, however, it should come as no sur-

prise that the first movie about this national hero will be about melancholy and his "complex emotional life."

Producers say the production now under way will be the biggest in Swedish movie history, ahead of Ingmar Bergman's 1982 film Fanny and Alexander.

What might be surpris-

ing for Swedish film buffs is the choice of director. Even Vilgot Sjöman himself was stunned.

Sjöman won international fame in the 1960s for his taboo-breaking, sexually explicit I Am Curious Yellow. The movie was the single most important contribution to the myth of Sweden as a haven for free sex. Distributors in the United

States had to go to an appeals court before the movie was released uncensored by U.S. authorities.

Since then, Sjöman's name has faded, although he has had local success with films on existentialist themes.

"I was getting no offers and about to give up movie-making when I was asked two years ago if I would do a film about

Nobel," he says. "It was a gift from heaven."

Last month, Sjöman and his team started filming in Budapest, where costs are lower and buildings resemble Paris and Stockholm in the late 19th century.

Nobel spent most of his time in Paris, his home when he decided to endow the prizes that made him

famous. Awards in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace have been awarded annually since 1901, five years after his death. This year, each prize is worth slightly less than \$1 million.

Despite Nobel's fascinating life, no film ever has been made about him.

"We only know of a 17-minute-long documentary about Nobel

from 1945," says Agneta Karlstrom at Sandrews, a Swedish film company and co-sponsor along with automaker Volvo and the government-owned Film Institute.

The decision to go ahead with Nobel follows the success of a film a few years ago about Raoul Wallenberg, another national hero long ignored by the Swedish film industry. The late diplomat is credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews from the Nazis.

The Wallenberg film was based on a biography by Swedish author Kenne Fant, whose book, Alfred Bernhard Nobel, also is the base for Sjöman's film.

Nobel, born in 1833, built a huge, international business empire at a time when the industrial revolution could make good use of his dynamite. His career had its share of drama, including incidents when factories and workers were blown to pieces.

But historic figures and events often are poor subjects for dramatic films, and Nobel is no different, Sjöman says.

"The story about the businessman in the boardrooms just won't make an exciting film," he says.

Instead, Sjöman is focusing on Nobel's problematic relations with women. "I am bringing out the emotional storms in his life," he says. "I want to reach the person."

Nobel died unmarried and without children. According to biographies, he is believed to have been in love with Countess Bertha Kinsky, a pacifist and peace activist.

Countess Kinsky, who later married and changed her name to Bertha von Suttner, worked as Nobel's secretary at his headquarters in Paris. She later became a prominent member of the Peace Movement and author of No More Arms. She is

believed to have inspired Nobel to create the peace prize.

In their troubled relationship, Countess Kinsky at one point accused Nobel of promoting wars with dynamite and arms production. Nobel argued that powerful enough weapons will finally create such fear of war that nations will dismantle their armies.

There also was Sofie Hess, a young woman from a lower-class family. She was Nobel's mistress for 15 years and he is said to have been blinded by her beauty. But he was torn by what he perceived as her lack of education and etiquette, and he decided not to marry her.

The cast chosen by Sjöman reflects his own work and the inescapable stamp of Bergman on Swedish film.

Nobel is to be played by Sven Wollter, who had a minor role in I Am Curious Yellow and was dubbed "Sweden's sexiest man" by Swedish newspapers a few years ago. He is well-known from several domestic box-office successes, but little known abroad.

Countess Kinsky is portrayed by German actress Rita Russek, who worked with Bergman at the Municipal Theatre in Munich. Hungarian actress Judit Danyi has the role of Sofie Hess. Sjöman discovered the 23-year-old in Budapest while looking for minor-role characters. Other actors include Jarl Kulle, who appeared in Fanny and Alexander and other Bergman films.

The film, budgeted at \$4.4 million, is to be released next September, a year before the 100th anniversary of Nobel's death.

The Nobel Foundation, which handles the prize money, is enthusiastic. In the past, it has aggressively defended the Nobel name.

Australia — a shooting star in Hollywood

By Barry Looms

AUSTRALIA'S film and television production industry, a "star" in Hollywood, now has its sights set on Europe and Asia.

According to Australia's National Manager of Entertainment and Leisure, Dr. John Robertson, earnings from film and television sales overseas in the next three years, are expected to top \$200 million.

The "bible" of the American cinema industry The Hollywood Reporter — has declared, in a front-page lead article, that "an unprecedented line-up of mainly United States productions, including at least four major films... will be shooting in Australia in the coming months."

The productions, collectively worth \$150 million, had been "attracted by cost-saving and what is hailed as world class facilities and crew."

"With the addition of various smaller productions, the activity is part of the \$600 million-\$700 million worth of off-shore production expected to be coming (to Australia) over the next three years," The Hollywood Reporter said, quoting the New South Wales Film and TV

Office. The industry was recently marketed in the United States by Austrade, the new national body, Export Film Service Australia (EFSA), and the Pacific Film and Television Commission (PFTC). Dr. Robertson says promoting the industry at trade fairs such as Show Biz East, in New York, and Show Biz West, in Las Vegas, and Location Expo in Los Angeles has proven very successful. Location Expo alone attracted more than 160 exhibitors, including major U.S., Canadian and British production studios.

Australia was sold to the U.S. as having diverse scenery, modern studios, state of the art special effects and post production services, high-tech production equipment, world-class talent, film crew and film processing facilities.

The Pacific Film and Television Commission's role is to maintain and increase Queensland's profile in the international filmmaking arena.

Locations Liaison Manager, Trena-Louise Lyons, said that scenically, Australia was one of the most diverse countries in the world. "As film

locations go, we can be anything to anyone."

On film and television production, Ms. Lyons said standards offered by Queensland crew were equal, if not better, in some cases, to those found in the U.S. "Some overseas filmmakers are not aware that Queensland is home to the largest studio complex in the southern hemisphere," she said, referring to the Warner Roadshow Movie World complex on the Gold Coast.

The Hollywood Reporter quoted Tim Zinnemann, executive producer of the recently completed film The Streetfighter, produced at Movieworld complex in Queensland as saying: "This is the best crew I've ever worked with. I wish I could do all my picture here." Streetfighter, the biggest motion picture ever shot in Australia, cost 30 per cent less because of its Australian shoot. The Hollywood Reporter said, quoting Mr. Zinnemann.

"I am confident that the industry has created a favourable impression in the U.S. and that producers now see Australia, and Queensland in particular, as a viable and exciting film location" — Insight.



Hugo Weaving stars as drag queen, Mitzel, in the hit Australian road movie The Adventures Of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert

Telemedicine exports could be worth \$2 billion

By Barry Looms

EXPORTS of high technology "telemedicine" to the Asia-Pacific region could earn Australia \$2 billion a year.

In a report, *Exporting Medical Services to Asia Pacific: The Potential of Telemedicine*, for the Australian Coalition of Service Industries and the Department of Industry, Science and Technology, Adelaide management consultant, Dr. Peter Steidl, said a "window of opportunity" in the Asia-Pacific region could be worth more than \$2 billion to Australia in export earnings.

Telemedicine is the sharing of medical information using satellite television. Telemedicine enables health services to be delivered immediately to remote locations over vast distances. The benefits include cost savings due to reduced travel costs and time spent by doctors and support staff, improved quality of care due to the accessibility of specialist advice, and improved support and training for remote and rural health workers.

Dr. Steidl said that in Australia, Telemedicine could reduce the national health bill and increase the social equity of those living in rural and remote areas.

Internationally, it had the potential to provide foreign patients with the benefits of the global village while at the same time earn Australia export income.

"Australia is just beginning to understand what Telemedicine is. Developing it in Australia is an important prerequisite to exporting medical services using Telemedicine. Australia needs to develop a track record in Telemedicine to gain credibility overseas."

Establishing a Telemedicine Centre in Australia was an important first step in exporting medical services. A Telemedicine Centre would be the key marketing agency for Australia's medical services. Its role would be to increase the number of overseas health units installing Telemedicine and

to market a range of Australian medical services.

Dr. Steidl said a pilot programme established two years ago linking the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Whyalla Hospital, established that it was feasible to use Telemedicine to provide city-based specialist services to country hospitals at low cost. The concept has also been tested in Vietnam and South Korea in a project linking the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney with the Seoul University Medical Centre.

Dr. Steidl said the success of marketing Telemedicine overseas depended on coordinating the marketing effort and obtaining the support of specialists committed to developing Telemedicine as an export industry.

"Australia should target countries in the Asia Pacific region because they are geographically close to Australia, are in similar time zones, have established trade relations with Australia and rapidly

growing economies. Indonesia, a large country with a large rural population and extensive experience with education services delivered via satellite, would be ideal to receive Telemedicine."

Dr. Steidl said Telemedicine benefits needed to be considered in their total impact on health costs. "There are around 6200 hospitals in the Asia-Pacific region — all potential buyers of Telemedicine goods and services. If Telemedicine is used only once a week for one hour, but can avoid the permanent disability of just one patient each year, it will generate a major saving to the health system," Dr. Steidl said.

But he warned that Australia's fragmented approach to the export of medical services could see it end up as a follower, rather than a leader, with Singapore and possibly other countries establishing and operating a domestic and export-oriented Telemedicine network before it — in-sight.



Telemedicine allows health services to be delivered immediately to remote locations over vast distances

Growth hormone 'helps AIDS patients gain weight'

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Injections of human growth hormone can help AIDS patients gain weight, countering the wasting syndrome that is a common complication of the illness, according to a recent U.S. study.

The study found that AIDS patients given daily injections of bio-engineered human growth hormone gained significantly more weight, particularly lean body mass, than those injected with a placebo, the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) said.

UCSF researchers coordinated the trial which involved 178 AIDS patients

enrolled in 12 medical centres around the United States.

The results of the trial were presented at a recent symposium on nutrition and AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in Philadelphia.

In the study, patients taking growth hormone gained an average of 1.6 kilograms over three months of therapy, UCSF said. They gained an average of 3 kilograms of lean body tissue but lost 1.4 kilograms of fat, it said.

By contrast, patients taking the placebo gained less than 500 grammes on average, UCSF said.

The study also found that patients who gained lean body mass were able to perform better on treadmill endurance tests, exercising longer and at higher workloads.

"It is important to emphasise that no other therapy has had such a consistent, positive effect on restoration of lean body mass in patients with AIDS-associated wasting," said Morris Schambelan, UCSF professor of medicine and principal investigator in the study.

The study was sponsored by Sero Laboratories of Massachusetts, which makes mammalian cell-derived human growth hormone.

The drug produced some common side effects, including joint and muscle aches, some swelling in the hands and feet and some symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome, UCSF said.

Weight loss is a common complication among AIDS patients and may make them more vulnerable to opportunistic infections, scientists believe.

Patients suffering from AIDS wasting syndrome are more likely to die sooner, with one New York study showing that death occurs when they reach two-thirds of their ideal body mass, Prof. Schambelan said.

Abortions may raise risk of breast cancer — study

WASHINGTON (R) — Women under age 45 who have had abortions could have a 50 per cent higher risk of developing breast cancer than other women in that age group, researchers reported.

In a seven-year study of some 1,600 women in the Seattle area, researchers also found that women under 18 years of age who had abortions increased their risk of breast cancer by 150 per cent, while women over 30 increased their risk by 110 per cent.

But one of the study's authors, Dr. Noel Weiss, said he did not see a reason for great public alarm about the study results. He said a woman under age 45 has a fairly low risk of breast cancer — about four cases per 10,000 women annually — and even if the Seattle study results are valid, those odds would only go up to about six in 10,000 annually.

In a study to be published on Nov. 2 in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, researchers at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle found that induced abortion was associated with a 50-per cent increased risk of breast cancer.

This increased risk did not vary with the number of induced abortions or by the history of having also had a completed pregnancy, but it was higher if the

abortion was performed on women 18 or younger or on women 30 or older.

For the younger women, the risk was higher if the abortion was performed after eight weeks of gestation or if the woman had a family history of breast cancer.

No increased breast cancer risk was associated with spontaneous abortion, or miscarriage, said the study, which was funded by the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Weiss said the suspected link between abortion and breast cancer was the proliferation of breast tissue early in pregnancy.

"The concern is that induced abortion, especially towards the end of the first trimester of pregnancy, might leave a woman with (breast) cells that are... developed to a certain degree but not fully, and those cells might be more prone to develop cancer later in life," Dr. Weiss said in a telephone interview.

However, both the editorial and Dr. Weiss noted that even a 50 per cent increase in risk is slight in the context of this kind of epidemiologic study. This is because the results of epidemiologic studies may have been due to a variety of factors, including bias, rather than being specifically caused by one factor, such as induced abortion.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

WEATHER OR NOT
By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS
1 Spring blooms.
6 Hit... hic Latin
10 Harsh, noisy gas
14 Descendant
16 Across Anzac
20 GI's supplies
21 Bunch
22 Across Adone
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2 Across
3 French brand
4 Date of birth
5 Sound effect
6 Better... too
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Diagramless 19 x 19
By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 That girl
2 Four-hands
3 Conductor
4 Placed last
5 Place of origin
6 Dark study
7 Consider
8 Chilly
9 Red of cheeks
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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Early test for Down syndrome found safe in large study

MONTREAL (AP) — A test for Down syndrome that can be done a full month earlier than the standard method of finding fetal abnormalities has proved safe in a study of more than 150,000 women, researchers reported.

Some research had suggested that the test, chorionic villus sampling, or CVS, could slightly increase the risk of birth defects. But the study found no evidence of that.

Amniocentesis, the standard test, does not provide results until the 14th to 16th week of pregnancy. CVS can help ease parents' fears earlier; it provides results in the 10th week of pregnancy.

The findings are important because demand for the test, which is now available in many large research hospitals, is likely to grow as other advances in genetics increase its usefulness, said one of the study's authors, Dr. Laird Jackson of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

Despite Jackson's findings, U.S. health officials will issue a report in several weeks saying they believe there is a very slight increase in limb abnormalities in fetuses that have undergone the procedure. "The risk is still low. I guess that's the good news," said Dr. Muin Khoury of the birth defects branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta.

One explanation for the disagreement is that the

CDC study may have included doctors who were less skilled at performing CVS. The increased risk might be due to mistakes in using the procedure, rather than some aspect of the procedure itself, Dr. Khoury and Dr. Jackson said.

The CDC data, collected from birth-defects records in seven states, suggests that the risk of limb deformities is six times higher than normal in fetuses that have undergone the procedure.

But because the normal risk of such abnormalities is only one in 18,000 cases, the risk after CVS is still low, occurring in about one in 3,000 cases, Dr. Khoury said.

"It is a highly individual decision for couples to make," he said. The risk may be outweighed by the psychological relief associated with knowing a month earlier that the fetus is not afflicted with Down syndrome or other chromosome abnormalities, he said.

Chorionic villus sampling is done by removing a sliver of tissue from the chorion, the tissue that gradually develops into the placenta. This tissue is then examined under the microscope for evidence of an extra copy of Chromosome 21, the mark of Down syndrome, or for other chromosome abnormalities.

In amniocentesis, a needle is used to draw out a sample of the amniotic fluid surrounding the fetus. The fluid contains bits of fetal tissue.

Chromosome testing is recommended for women who become pregnant after age 35 because the risk of Down syndrome increases with the mother's age. The CDC estimates that 50 per cent of U.S. mothers 35 or older have amniocentesis, and about 6 per cent have CVS, Dr. Khoury said.

Dr. Jackson noted that researchers are making rapid advances in the development of screening tests that can predict, using a blood sample from a pregnant woman, whether

she is likely to be carrying a child with Down syndrome.

Those tests are being developed for use in the 10th week of pregnancy. As they become widely available, more and more women will learn in the 10th week of pregnancy that they may be carrying a Down syndrome child.

Many of those women are likely to opt for CVS to confirm the findings immediately, rather than wait a month or longer for amniocentesis, Dr. Jackson said.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE ART

- Greek sculptor.
- Painting of inanimate objects or groups of objects.
- The artistic real name was Jacopo Robusti. He was called Tintoretto — little dyer — from his father's trade.
- A stone carved in the form of a beetle.
- John Francis Murphy, American landscape painter.

PERPLEXITIES

IBERIAN

B	U	R	G	O	S
G	I	J	O	N	
T	O	L	E	D	O
L	I	S	B	A	
A	V	I	L	T	
O	P	O	R		

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

SSC: Investments JD 635m, returns JD 225m

★ The Social Security Corporation (SSC) has about JD 635 million in various investments. Accumulated returns on these investments, since the SSC was established in 1979, have reached JD 225 million. SSC Director-General Safwan Toukan said that nearly 750,000 individuals working in about 9,300 private and public entities are now under the umbrella of the corporation. He said that SSC had paid JD 77 million in retirement salaries in the past 15 years and that the monthly retirement payments are approximately JD 1.75 million (Al Aswaq).

★ Haidar Murad was elected chairman of the Chamber of Commerce during the first meeting of the newly-elected board of directors. Yassir Bustami was elected first deputy of the chairman and Riyad Al Seifi was elected second deputy. Mohammad Al Mubtaseh became secretary-general, Ismail Tararrah took the treasury post. Ghazi Kassar and Ziyad Ghaith were chosen as deputy secretary-general and deputy treasurer respectively. Taher Al Taher, Hisham Al Haj Hassan, Mohammad Asfour and Salman Qudab are only members (Al Ra'i).

★ The equity of Sabih Al Masri in the Amman Bank for Investment did not change as it was erroneously mentioned. The transaction of the JD 1.35 million share was only a transfer of his equity from his own name to the name of a new company he established (Al Aswaq).

★ Deputising for the minister of industry and trade, the director-general of the Industrial Cities Corporation opened an exhibition organized by the Jordan Educational Company. The exhibition, held at Philadelphia Hotel, highlights the "power of automation" as it displays the most up-to-date technology in office equipment (Al Ra'i).

★ Suboh and Rifai Contracting Company was ordered by a court to pay to Philadelphia Bank the sum of JD 562,172,311. The bank, known previously as the Jordan Finance House, extended credits to the company since July 1988 until Nov. 30, 1991, when the balance reached the aforementioned amount. The bank took the company to court in March 1992 (Al Ra'i).

★ The International Company for Freezing and Packing Vegetables and Fruits is currently being established as a public shareholding company. Founders are due to sign the necessary documents Wednesday (Al Aswaq).

★ Dairy producers have decided to delay the closure of their plants and took the advice of the Chamber of Industry to send a final memorandum to the Minister of Supply before taking any action. The broad lines for the memorandum point to the heavy losses they are incurring and the need to increase prices (Al Aswaq).

★ Starting next year, new regulations will be applied to foreign cars entering the Kingdom. According to the new regulations, issued by the Customs Department, a foreign car will be allowed a temporary entry licence for three months. If a foreign car overstays this period and then leaves the Kingdom for less than a month, it will be given a temporary entry licence again but only for one month. Fines between JD 2 and JD 7 per week will be imposed for overstaying the time limit. The fine for driving a car by anyone other than owner was set at JD 50 (Al Ra'i).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTRAL AMMAN - SUBSIDIARY				
TELEPHONE: 560170 / 563170				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 13/12/1994				
HOUSING BANK				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES	TRADED	PREV. CLOSING	PRICE
AMMAN BANK	80	14,790	184,500	185,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,200	9,850	4,500	4,500
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	150,200	769,750	5,150	5,000
BANK OF JORDAN	20,000	79,600	9,930	9,980
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	750	2,185	1,600	1,580
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10,800	32,384	2,990	2,980
JORDAN KIWAT BANK	1,000	28,000	5,600	5,600
JORDAN GULF BANK	3,721	12,196	3,010	3,010
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1,250	2,103	7,720	7,680
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,000	7,383	3,490	3,490
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,500	9,328	7,730	7,730
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,500	6,688	3,300	3,300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	19,750	20,493	1,850	1,840
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11,550	19,898	1,730	1,710
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	30,000	97,600	1,910	1,920
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	976	4,999	2,400	2,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	900	1,254	2,540	2,530
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	699	1,092	1,560	1,570
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,000	3,137	1,530	1,530
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	280	2,613	1,000	0,950
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	150	1,578	3,360	3,350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,013	6,750	6,750	6,750
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	657	3,422	5,190	5,210
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,600	4,880	3,360	3,350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,000	4,996	2,900	2,480
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,150	4,990	3,360	3,350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,150	4,117	1,250	1,250
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	200	214	1,080	1,070
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12,000	29,928	2,500	2,500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,500	8,543	3,350	3,350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	600	782	1,300	1,270
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	31,257	108,766	1,890	2,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	250	685	2,780	2,740
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,400	6,750	5,600	5,600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,250	1,644	2,240	2,240
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	650	3,185	4,920	4,900
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,128	9,009	8,080	8,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3,652	20,552	5,880	5,750
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	62	3,777	6,100	6,100
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,000	2,883	2,890	2,880
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	350	959	2,750	2,740
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,900	33,155	17,450	17,450
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,158	14,383	1,030	1,030
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,450	20,358	7,150	7,150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	56,438	54,990	0,840	0,840
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,150	3,044	1,430	1,420
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	250	730	2,950	2,900
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,180	1,180	1,180	1,180
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	8,750	7,578	0,870	0,870
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,200	8,855	2,070	2,060
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	700	1,974	2,820	2,820
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	500	1,365	2,750	2,730
GRAND TOTAL	419,341	1,428,047		
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	229513			
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	291592			

Financial Markets				
in co-operation with				
Cairo Amman Bank				
U.S. Dollar at International Markets				
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close	London Close	Amman Close
Sterling Pound	1.5648	1.5622**		
Deutsche Mark	1.5735	1.5732		
Swiss Franc	1.3335	1.3325**		
French Franc	5.4080	5.3180**		
Japanese Yen	99.99	100.17		
European Currency Unit	1.8135	1.8111**		

Eurocurrency Interest Rates				
Date: 13/12/1994				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.12	6.62	7.06
Sterling Pound	5.93	6.18	6.75	7.12
Deutsche Mark	5.12	5.12	5.25	5.50*
Swiss Franc	3.75	4.00	4.18	4.50
French Franc	5.43	5.75	6.06	6.50
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.18	2.31	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.96	6.08	6.35	6.61

Precious Metals				
Date: 13/12/1994				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz
Gold	378.00	7.55	Silver	4.79

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin				
Date: 13/12/1994				
Currency	Bid	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040		
Sterling Pound	1.0986	1.1051		
Deutsche Mark	0.4456	0.4480		
Swiss Franc	0.5262	0.5288		
French Franc	0.1296	0.1302		
Japanese Yen	0.7007	0.7042		
Dutch Guilder	0.3982	0.4002		
Swedish Krona	0.0428	0.0430		
Italian Lira	0.0428	0.0430		
Belgian Franc	0.0428	0.0430		

Other Currencies				
Date: 13/12/1994				
Currency	Bid	Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1.8460	1.8620		
Lebanese Lira	0.041215	0.042530		
Saudi Riyal	0.1860	0.1879		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3030	2.3600		
Qatari Riyal	0.1916	0.1929		
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150		
Omani Riyal	1.8060	1.8240		
UAE Dirham	0.1905	0.1915		
Greek Drachma	0.2830	0.3175		
Cypriot Pound	1.4020	1.5320		

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GCC oil investment to exceed \$20b

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states will invest more than \$20 billion in the next five years to expand their oil production capacity to face growing world demand, an industry official has said.

The funds are part of around \$30 billion to be spent by the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states on the industrial sector as part of attempts to diversify their oil-reliant economies, said Hisham Khawajkeya, industrial information official at the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC).

"More than \$20 billion will be spent on the oil sector alone by the end of the decade," he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily

Al Khaleej.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE — have already pumped billions of dollars into boosting their crude output capacity and prevent a world supply crisis as they control 45 per cent of the global oil reserves of nearly one trillion barrels.

Apart from oil expansion projects, GCC states are offering more incentives to the private sector to encourage it to set up industrial projects as part of economic reforms triggered by a sharp decline in crude prices.

Some governments have started selling off some public facilities while others, mainly Saudi Arabia, have

announced massive privatisation programmes to lure back swelling overseas funds.

"The GCC private sector will spearhead economic development in the coming stage and will be the driving force in expected growth," Mr. Khawajkeya said.

"I believe this sector will find itself bound to invest in the region as the chances for further growth in its overseas investments are receding due to continuous turbulences in international financial markets."

Mr. Khawajkeya, whose Doha-based group advises on GCC industrial policies, estimated GCC public and private assets abroad at more than \$400 billion, a large part

of which will return to the region."

He said GCC economic growth rate in 1994 was projected to exceed the 1993 level of around five per cent despite low oil prices. In the next three years, growth rates will average six to seven per cent annually, he added.

In a paper he presented to an industry seminar in the UAE, he estimated that GCC nations had invested a total of \$41 billion in 5,700 non-oil industrial projects.

The industrialisation drive has pushed up the non-oil sector's contribution to the gross domestic product to around 65 per cent from less than 40 per cent in early 1980s.

Three African countries launch airline

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — A new regional airline has been launched which officials hope will lay the foundation of economic cooperation between eastern and southern Africa.

The joint airline, to be called "Alliance," was launched Monday night by Tanzania Prime Minister Cleopa Msuya at a colourful ceremony attended by ministers from shareholding countries South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

Mr. Msuya hailed the new airline saying cash-strapped African nations can no longer afford to operate individual airlines in a highly competitive world market.

"The era of small, national airlines is over," he said.

"With the meagre resources small national airlines are fast becoming a thing of the past. We have to have liberal services and mega airlines. Otherwise we risk being marginalised in trade and finance," Mr. Msuya added.

Only last week, neighbouring Zambia saying it could no longer afford pumping heavy subsidies into its bankrupt national carrier — Zambia Airways — closed it down.

South Africa's Public Enterprise Minister Stella Sigcau told the gathering the airline was an embryonic example of cooperation among African states.

"We can transform Africa from an aid-reliant continent to an economic powerhouse. But we also have to constantly ask ourselves — is Africa investor-friendly? Do African countries have a semblance of stability?" she said.

Ms. Sigcau was referring to a chain of conflicts, civil wars and political upheavals on the world's poorest continent which have chased away potential investors and hindered growth.

"We have to form joint ventures and partnerships if we are to grow," she added.

Officials from Tanzania and Uganda say South Africa's participation in the project had boosted chances of success for the new airline.

Alliance will operate as a private entity with 40 per cent shares held by South African Airways (SAA), 30 per cent each by Uganda Airlines (QU) and Air Tanzania (TC).

The airline will run services between eastern and southern Africa and will also operate long-haul routes to Europe and Asia using a SAA Boeing 767 aircraft, officials said.

The airline managing director Christo Roodt told Reuters the first Alliance flight will be "sometime next year."

The airline had been on the drawing board for more than six years having been initially launched in Tanzania in 1987 with Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania as members to form its nucleus.

He said efforts to restructure the airline and improve its operational efficiency and profitability, had failed.

He disclosed that in the past three years, government has pumped 19.3 billion kwacha (\$27.5 million), into

scrap the cash-strapped but flamboyant airline comes in the wake of threats from international donors that they will withhold \$160 million pledged to finance Zambia's balance of payments if the government attempted to financially rescue the airline.

Mr. Miyanda said that Zambia Airways has since its inception been operating on a negative capital base, a situation that has been worsened by poor and irresponsible management.

He said efforts to restructure the airline and improve its operational efficiency and profitability, had failed.

He disclosed that in the past three years, government has pumped 19.3 billion kwacha (\$27.5 million), into

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1st Division Basketball Championship

Watani push Hussein toward relegation

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Hussein's only chance of retaining their place in the first division basketball standings has been narrowed down to one very difficult possibility — that they defeat their Irbid counterparts, Al Jalil, in their match Wednesday. Otherwise Al Hussein will drop to the second division for the first time since they joined the prestigious group in 1971.

Al Hussein were cornered into the difficult position after their loss to Al Watani Monday evening. Al Hussein had won their first round encounter 79-76 and only needed to repeat the win to secure their place. Al Watani, on the other hand, needed to score a win with over three points. However they did more than that, as their players gave it their best shot and scored a convincing 84-68 victory to almost secure their place until the result of the Hussein-Jalil match finally demonstrates which team will accompany Homentmen to the second division.

In another match Wednesday, Al Jazireh meet Homentmen in a match that has no bearing on their standings. Al Jazireh have retained third place for the third consecutive year while Homentmen became the first of the two teams to drop after failing to score the minimum number of at

least three wins.

This year, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) decided that two teams will be relegated this season while only one team, Abbasi, will be promoted reducing the number of competing teams to six for the first time.

The usual eight competing teams were reduced to seven this season after the JBF last year promoted only one team from the second division instead of the usual two.

The new regulations posed a real challenge to the last three teams which seemed to be in a league of their own and had apparently limited their ambitions to avoiding relegation.

Al Watani, a fifth place finisher after defeating Al Hussein in double overtime last year, had hoped to further advance their standing after recruiting a new Iraqi coach Mohammad Al Najjar, who was previously at Al Orthodoxy.

Despite their morale-boosting win over Al Hussein Monday, Al Watani's standing as the last in the first division was the opposite of what their ambitious lineup had predicted at the outset of the competition, as the team found themselves fighting for their place in the division for the first time since they were promoted in 1986.

At Watani took a 9-0 lead at first before Al Hussein managed to score their first point three minutes into the first half.

Scoring remained below average in the freezing temperatures at the Sports Palace where only a handful of fans followed one of the most important matches of the competition as it represented the battle at the other end of the standings.



Al Watani's team

Al Watani led 16-7 before Al Hussein managed to reduce the gap to 16-14. Al Watani again expanded the gap to 28-15 as Marwan Omar burdened Al Hussein's players with many fouls while teammates Hani Al Taher and Fadi Hussein scored to end the first half with a commanding 44-27 lead.

Al Watani led 49-35 before Al Hussein applied a press defence to reduce the gap to 54-43 in the sixth minute when their key player, Hadi Al Sayes, was ruled out after five personal fouls.

In the following four minutes Al Hussein managed to outscore Al Watani 10-2 to reduce the gap to 57-53 in the 10th minute.

Just as Al Watani seemed to be letting the match slip out of their hands, Al Hussein's top player Mustafa Al Kofahi was also fouled out following a technical foul from which Al Watani scored five points to again expand the score to 65-55.

Al Hussein's younger players seemed at a loss while Al Watani were determined to cap the season with a win to secure their standing. They outscored their opponents 12-6 in the final three minutes ending the match with a vital 16-point win.

In an earlier match Al Jazireh became the first

team to beat titleholders Al Ahli in a half-time score as the third placed team won the second half 42-32. However Al Ahli ended the match with a mere 77-65 victory thanks to a 45-23 lead in the first half.

Their first round match had ended 91-62 for Al Ahli.

In another match, Al Orthodoxy defeated fourth-placed Al Jalil 119-81, the first half ending 52-33. The first round match had ended with a 10 point 74-64 win for Al Orthodoxy, however Al Jalil's form has dropped a lot after their coach quit halfway through the second round.

Wednesday's matches

Hussein vs. Jalil 5:30 p.m. Yarmouk Court

Homentmen vs. Jazireh 5 p.m. Ahli Court.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Ahli	11	11	—	1156	605	22
Orthodoxy	11	10	1	1075	641	21
Jazireh	11	7	4	926	813	18
Jalil	11	5	6	639	766	16
Watani	12	3	9	815	1083	15
Hussein	11	3	8	710	977	14
Homentmen	11	—	11	508	1018	10



Naser Alawneh



Hilal Barakat

Russia take lead in Chess Olympiad

MOSCOW (AP) — Led by World Champion Garry Kasparov, Russia-1 moved into a one-point lead at the World Chess Olympiad Monday by beating Georgia 3-1.

Kasparov defeated Zurab Azmaiparashvili, one of his helpers for the Professional Chess Association title match against Nigel Short last year.

England downed Yugoslavia 3.5-0.5 to take a share of second place with 28 points. The Netherlands also won — 3.5-0.5 over China to join England, Estonia and Bosnia.

With three rounds remaining, Russia-1 is the clear favorite, though it has yet to play England or the Netherlands.

In the next round, Russia-1 will face Russia-2, the Russian junior side. England will play either the Netherlands or Estonia.

The United States has won three matches in a row and has a chance for the bronze medal after beating Lithuania 3-1, it has 26.5 points.

In the women's section, Georgia maintained a solid lead with a 2-1 victory over Kazakhstan. Its main rival, Hungary, kept pace with a 2-1 victory over Romania.

Arsenal win at Manchester City

MANCHESTER (AP) — Alan Smith and Swedish midfielder Stefan Schwarz fired first half goals as Arsenal ended Manchester City's unbeaten home record with a 2-1 victory at Maine Road Monday.

The result moved the Gunners up one place to 11th in the 22-team standings while City stayed sixth.

Smith turned in a centre from fullback Lee Dixon in the 31st minute and Schwarz added the second with a neat chipped shot four minutes later after good approach work by Smith and Kevin Campbell.

Tomba captures slalom

SESTRIERE, Italy (AP) — Most skiers liked the slalom under the lights, tried for the first time in World Cup history at Sestriere Monday night.

Three-time Olympic champion Alberto Tomba loved it. The Italian skier, La Bomba of international fame, scored his 35th World Cup career victory in the floodlight race on his favorite track at Sestriere and said winning at night caused him a special feeling.

"It was a special victory, I hope that they (the international federation) organize more races under lights. It's good for the skiers and for Alpine skiing," Tomba said.

Monday's triumph, the second straight this season and the sixth out of nine races contested in this Italian Alpine resort, boosted Tomba's morale and his overall leadership.

With two slalom wins and a fourth place in a giant slalom Tomba piled up an early lead of 250 points, 101 points ahead of runner-up Michael Von Gruenigen.

World Cup defending champion Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway lagged 117 points behind the defiant Italian, who was off to the best season start since his golden 1987-88 season when he won nine World Cup races and two Olympic titles at Calgary.

Speed specialists, idled by the cancellation of races in Italy, Switzerland and Austria due to lack of snow, began action in Val d'Isere Friday and Saturday.

Wales face Bulgarian ordeal in European qualifier

PARIS (AFP) — Wales, without four key players, tackle Bulgaria in Cardiff Wednesday when the World Cup semi-finalists should bury Welsh hopes of qualifying for the 1996 European Championship.

Wales, thrashed 5-0 in Georgia last month, have lost Manchester United's Ryan Giggs, Jeremy Goss of Norwich and defensive duo Kit Symons and Mark Aizlewood through injury.

Hristo Stoichkov's Bulgaria, who have scored six goals in home wins over Moldova and Georgia, will have few fears of their first trip outside Sofia on this current campaign.

Coach Berti Vogts, who faces the axe if Germany fail to qualify for the finals in England, has dropped five players from his squad for the two matches they play this week.

Germany, beaten by Bulgaria in the World Cup quarter-finals in New York in July, travel to Moldova on Wednesday before playing Albania at home Sunday.

Skipper Lothar Matthaus,

who picked up a calf injury in the 0-0 draw with Werder Bremen at the weekend, is expected to recover in time.

Jurgen Klinsmann and Ulf Kirsten, who scored in the 2-1 win in Tirana last month, are expected to lead the attack.

Gheorghe Hagi might be thanking his Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff for forcing him to play for his club on Sunday. He scored a stunning goal with a lob from the halfway line to prove his fitness before catching the plane for Tel Aviv and a match against Israel.

The same cannot be said of Romania's leading scorer Florin Raducioiu. He was released by his Spanish club Espanol on time but then pulled a muscle in training.

Greece, so abysmal in the World Cup, top Group 8 with wins over the Faroe Islands, Finland and San Marino.

Scotland should be a better test of their credentials on Wednesday.

Duncan Ferguson, currently on loan to Everton from Glasgow Rangers, has been named in Scotland's squad.

The four million pound striker was recalled by Craig Brown after a lengthy absence from the international scene when injury to Aberdeen's Scott Booth ruled him out of contention for the European Championship qualifier.

Ferguson won the last of his four senior caps early in 1993 before his big-money move from Dundee United to Rangers.

Spain, carrying on from their excellent World Cup, top Group 2 with three wins out of three. European champions Denmark were the latest to fall in Seville and the Spaniards must be optimistic of playing in Brussels.

Belgium's world has never been the same since Saeed Owarain scored that stupendous winner for Saudi Arabia in Washington in June.

They have beaten Armenia, lost to Denmark and drawn with Macedonia.

Norway should stretch their lead at the top of Group 5 by winning in Malta but Holland will keep in touch and improve their goal difference against Luxembourg who have won only three games in 125 internationals.

Welsh manager Mike Smith has called up Glyn Hodges (Sheff Wed), Karl Ready (QPR), John Cornforth (Swansea) and Paul Bodin (Swindon) as replacements in the 18-strong squad.

Giggs, who missed the defeats in Moldova and Georgia, withdrew after aggravating an ankle injury in the Manchester derby on November 10.



Rabanne launches 'XS Pour Elle'

Abu Shaqra Trading Agency organised Dec. 12 a press conference at the Amman Marriott Hotel where Rami Abu Shaqra, the agency's general manager, announced Paco Rabanne's new scent "XS Pour Elle."

Mr. Raffi Fattal, Paco Rabanne's division manager tableware and perfumes at Michel Chalhoub Trading Company in Dubai and Paco Rabanne's Middle East regional representative, addressed the press.

In the sixties, everything began to change: principles, stock ideas, traditions. The urge to live in a new way came over very strongly. The French society was changed down to its very roots. Perhaps it was because some, and Paco Rabanne was one of these. More than others, it looked to the future to be able to invent the present.

In 1969, Paco Rabanne set out into the field of perfume. Calandre was an appealing surprise, presented in a bottle of avant-garde design and a fragrance that introduced the

generation of green leafy perfumes.

1994 sees the extension of Paco Rabanne with the introduction of his new feminine fragrance XS Pour Elle, complementing the XS Universe.

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It is composed of natural living scents lending it a vibrant freshness with notes of citrus, violet leaves supported by water jasmine which globally lightens the fragrance.

At the press conference, Patricia Michelis, Paco Rabanne's promotion officer, presented a detailed outline on the development of Paco Rabanne's products through a television documentary that featured Paco Rabanne's successes over the past decades. The documentary focused attention on fashion designs, Paco Rabanne's pride in the 1960s, and accessories and scents which have won worldwide fame.

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SINGLE IN THOSE TRICKS

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH ♠ A 9 7 3

♦ 6 4

♥ Q 6 4

♣ A Q 3

WEST ♠ K Q J 3

♦ 10 8 5 4 2

♥ K 8 8 2

♣ 10 8 3

SOUTH ♠ 6

♦ K Q 10 2

♥ A 7

♣ K 10 6 4

The bidding: South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass

5 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Some hands seem so easy to play that they don't merit precautionary measures. However, one unlucky break can ruin even the soundest of contracts.

South did not make a jump rebid because the hand was a possible misfit. Once North showed heart support and a good hand, though, South decided on ace and kings and settled in a 4-4 slam when North did not hold a king to take care of the diamond loser.

After the lead of the king of spades declarer saw only a diamond loser so, without giving the play any thought, South won the ace and started on trumps. When East showed out on the second round, declarer was suddenly faced with a trump and declarer was forced to concede a diamond trick.

Declarer found a cure for the hand, but too late. A simple precaution at trick two would have allowed declarer to take advantage of the distribution that existed.

After winning the opening lead, declarer should ruff a spade and then cash two rounds of trumps. When East shows out on the second round, declarer crosses to dummy with a club and ruffs another spade, then draws a third trump before starting to run clubs.

West can ruff at any time, but then would be forced to lead a diamond away from the king. That allows the table's queen to score the fulfilling trick.

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Iran ordeal qualifier

The four million pound striker was recalled by Crayston after a lengthy absence from the international scene when injury to Aberdeen's Scott Booth ruled him out of contention for the European Championship qualifier.

Crusier won the last of his four senior caps early in 1993 before his long move from Dundee United to Rangers.

Spain, coming on from their excellent World Cup group, with three wins out of three European qualifiers. Denmark were the opponents in Seville and the Spaniards must be optimistic of playing in Brussels.

Belgium's last game has been the same since Steve Whitford scored that stupendous winner for Saudi Arabia in Washington in June.

They have beaten Armenia, lost to Denmark and drawn with Macedonia.

Norway should stretch their lead at the top of Group 4 by winning at Malta but Holland will keep in touch and improve their goal difference against Luxembourg who have won only three games in 12 international matches.

Welsh manager Mike Hughes (Sheffed United) has called up Gareth Griffiths (QPR), John Cornforth (Swansea) and Paul Bodin (Swansea) as replacements in the 18-strong squad.

Cruickshank, who missed the defeat in Moldova and Georgia, withdrew after appearing in an under-21 match in Manchester derby in November.

Time running out for NHL season

NEW YORK (R) — The National Hockey League season moved on to thin ice Monday as the NHL board of governors authorised commissioner Gary Bettman to cancel it if no agreement were reached in time to play 50-game schedule.

At a meeting in New York, the owners rejected the players' latest contract proposal and said a new collective bargaining agreement would have to be reached soon enough so that a 50-game season and the full Stanley Cup playoffs could be played by July 1.

The owners did not set a deadline for when talks would have to be completed to save the season, but the general consensus has been that the deadline for starting a 50-game season is Jan. 1.

"We still believe we can make a deal and have a season," Bettman said, but added: "Any suggestion that the season is not clearly at risk should now be put to rest."

"We need a new collective bargaining agreement that works for the players and the clubs."

Players' association chief Bob Goodenow said in a statement from union headquarters in Toronto: "The commissioner has said he wants to take a problem-solving approach towards the stumbling blocks we have encountered."

"I agree that such an approach would be helpful for purposes of reaching an agreement before the entire season is cancelled."

The NHL lockout has already cost 24 games for each team, reducing the season, which had been scheduled to begin Oct. 1, to 60 games. The lockout is the longest work stoppage in hockey history, easily surpassing the 10-day players' strike in 1992.

The two sides appeared to be making progress recently on various issues, but talks have broken down over the owners' modified payroll tax plan. Players have been against the tax, claiming it is in effect a salary cap.

Gretzky consider European teams

Wayne Gretzky's touring all-stars are leaving Scandinavia with a 4-2 record against some of the best hockey clubs in Sweden, Finland and Norway.

Several of the players might return soon if the National Hockey League season is cancelled later this month. This time it wouldn't be for another tour, but to play on European teams.

"I would definitely play over here, anywhere," Detroit Red Wings defenceman Paul Coffey said. "I'm going to go somewhere."

Veteran Charlie Huddy, one of eight players from the Los Angeles Kings on Gretzky's ninety-nine all-stars, agreed.

Dolphins trounce Chiefs 45-28 to clinch playoff berth

MIAMI (Agencies) — Dan Marino threw a pair of touchdown passes and ran for another score Monday as the Miami Dolphins used a third-quarter explosion to trounce the Kansas City Chiefs 45-28 and clinch a playoff berth.

Miami, with coach Don Shula perched on a golf cart on the sidelines following Achilles tendon surgery, to 9-5 to lead the AFC East by a game over New England and became the fifth team to qualify for the Super Bowl tournament.

The reeling Chiefs, playing without injured star quarterback Joe Montana, slipped to 7-7 after yielding 21 third-quarter points on the way to a fourth defeat in their last five games.

The score was tied at half-time 14-14 when Marino capped a 13-play, 61-yard drive with an unlikely fourth-quarter scoring run.

On Kansas City's ensuing possession, Steve Bono, starting in place of Montana, threw an interception to Gene Atkins at the Miami 23. Atkins ran the ball to the Miami 42 and lateralled to Troy Vincent, who carried the ball the remaining 58 yards for a touchdown that built Miami's lead to 28-14.

With 36 seconds left in the third, Bernie Parmelee, who caught a scoring pass from Marino early in the second quarter, broke free for a 47-yard touchdown romp that replenished Miami's comfortable cushion at 35-21.

Parmelee rushed for 127 yards on 19 carries for his third 100-yard game of the season. Marino completed 21-of-30 passes for 241 yards as Miami ran up the most points scored against the usually stingy Chiefs since 1984.

Playoff picture confusing

Mike Holmgren has no idea what needs to happen for his Green Bay Packers (7-7) to make the National Football League playoffs. He has much company.

"I think we have to win and see what happens," Holmgren said after the Packers beat Chicago 40-3 Sunday to snap a three-game losing streak.

How confusing is the playoff picture?

Even though the Bears (8-6) have been routed twice by the Packers, Chicago remains ahead of Green Bay in a NFC Central that could become the first division to send four teams to the postseason.

If the playoffs started next week, Minnesota, Detroit, Chicago and Green Bay would be in — the Packers have the best conference record of four NFC teams tied at 7-7 for the final wild-card spot.

Weird, but no stranger than this NFL season in which 22 of the 28 teams remain alive for the playoffs with two weeks left. Fifteen teams are between 8-6 and 6-8.

It's like this: The only teams who can't make the playoffs are Cincinnati, Houston, the Los Angeles Rams, Seattle, Tampa Bay

NFL Standings									
American Conference									
EAST									
	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Miami (Y)	9	5	0	.643	356	297			
New England	8	6	0	.571	297	292			
Buffalo	7	7	0	.500	314	305			
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.429	248	275			
Indianapolis	6	8	0	.429	287	305			
CENTRAL									
Pittsburgh (Y)	11	3	0	.786	265	190			
Cleveland (Y)	10	4	0	.714	298	178			
Cincinnati	2	12	0	.143	236	348			
Houston	1	13	0	.071	193	311			
WEST									
San Diego	9	5	0	.643	323	266			
LA Raiders	8	6	0	.571	277	292			
Denver	7	7	0	.500	300	324			
Kansas City	7	7	0	.500	269	280			
Seattle	6	8	0	.429	262	271			

National Conference									
EAST									
	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Dallas (X)	11	3	0	.786	380	217			
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	248	282			
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	281	250			
Philadelphia	7	7	0	.500	265	269			
Washington	2	12	0	.143	282	374			
CENTRAL									
Minnesota	9	5	0	.643	316	259			
Detroit	8	6	0	.571	296	296			
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	241	281			
Green Bay	7	7	0	.500	327	251			
Tampa Bay	5	9	0	.357	215	303			
WEST									
San Francisco (X)	12	2	0	.857	449	256			
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	302	355			
Atlanta	6	8	0	.429	290	358			
LA Rams	4	10	0	.286	252	314			

and Washington.

And the Bucs are one of the hottest teams in the league, having won three straight for the first time in 12 years. With wins over the Redskins and Packers, Tampa Bay would avoid its first season of double-figures losses in those dozen seasons.

Just about every team is on streak. The 49ers have won nine straight, the Steelers six, the Patriots five and the Giants four. On the other side, the Oilers have dropped 10 in a row, the Redskins six, the Eagles five, the Bengals four and the Jets three.

San Francisco (12-2) and Dallas (11-3) remain in a class by themselves despite the Cowboy's loss (by an inch) to Cleveland on Saturday.

That gives the 49ers home field through the NFC playoffs with one more win. That home field is something San Francisco desperately needs to get back to what it considers its rightful spot in the Super Bowl and deny Dallas its shot at becoming the first team to win three straight Super Bowls.

In the AFC, Pittsburgh (11-3) and Cleveland (10-4) are in. They meet Sunday in Pittsburgh with the central title on the line although the Steelers would still hold the tiebreaker edge — the Browns' win in Dallas didn't

entirely wipe out its loss to the Giants at home a week earlier.

Then there are the Cardinals, who started 6-0 but now have lost five of their last eight. They remain a game away from clinching in the meadowlands.

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Armed Islamic extremists join forces in Algeria

PARIS (AFP) — Algeria's main armed Islamic extremist factions fighting the secular regime have joined forces, which means the beginning of full-scale war, one of them claimed in a statement released here Tuesday.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the factions, declared that it had been joined by the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the military wing of the outlawed fundamentalist front that was poised to take political power in 1992.

The link-up was approved by the leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, according to El Kital (The Combat), a bulletin issued by the GIA and received here said.

The AIS and the GIA have united under the "only banner of jihad (holy war) legal in Algeria," the statement said in a nine-point text signed by GIA chief Abou Abdel Rahman Amin, which has not been confirmed.

Four AIS members and two unnamed officials from the political leadership of the FIS have joined the ruling Majlis El Choura executive of the GIA, said the bulletin, adding that the move marked "the real beginning of the war."

The town of Medea, 70 kilometres southwest of the capital Algiers, is "the capital of the orthodox 'Caliphate' state the GIA is fighting for and the departure point for armies to conquer the east and west," it said.

The GIA has consistently ruled out any dealings with

the army-backed regime of President Liamine Zeroual and is seeking to overthrow it and turn Algeria into a radical Islamic state.

The insurrection, which officials say claimed at least 10,000 lives up until December last year and continues unabated, began after the military in January 1992 cancelled the second round of elections the FIS was poised to win.

The FIS was later outlawed, but the regime has released Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj, who were already in jail when the poll took place, into house arrest in a bid to promote talks to end the conflict. The two were convicted of state security offences in June 1992 and sentenced to 12 years behind bars.

The GIA has claimed responsibility for most of the assassinations of scores of intellectuals and journalists, moderate religious leaders and foreigners it accuses of supporting the regime.

Seventy expatriates, nearly all from France or elsewhere in Europe, have been murdered since September 1993 and the movement has warned others to leave the country.

Abdel Rahman Amin also announced the promotion of Mohammed Said, a former FIS official, as his second deputy and the appointment of several military leaders and emirs, or regional chiefs, to replace those killed by the security forces.

The bulletin also warned two senior FIS leaders in exile, Rabah Kebir and Anwar Hadam, that they were considered "excluded

from the ranks of the jihad forces united under the GIA."

Mr. Said for his part also stated that Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj, under surveillance in Algiers since September, had given their approval for the merger in "a meeting with AIS leaders and those of the political wing of the FIS."

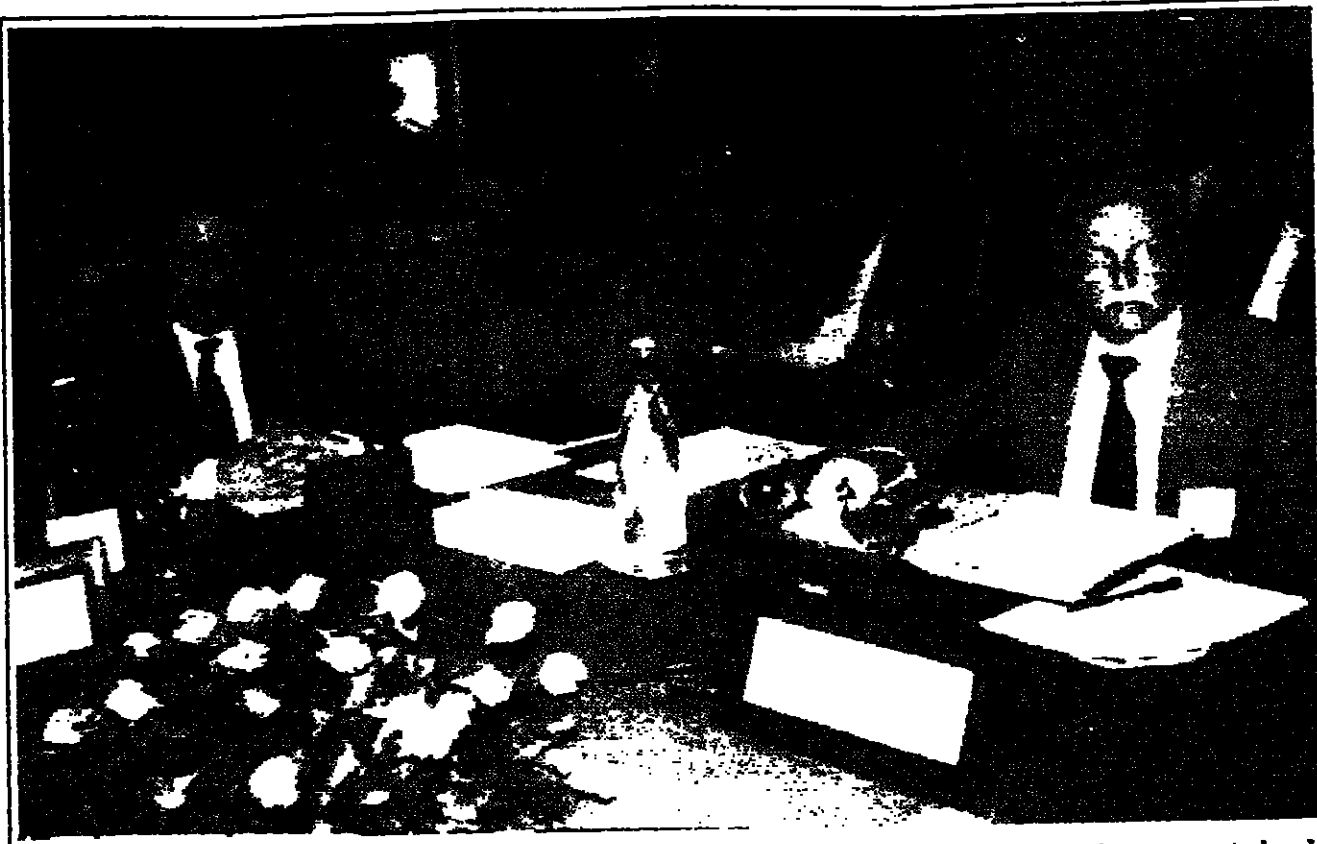
The announcement, which remains to be confirmed, comes as the security forces were undertaking an unprecedented offensive against the fundamentalist gangs.

They killed at least 421 armed extremists in November and almost 100 more in further operations this month, according to a toll established from figures officially released. The regime rarely gives any details of casualties among its own forces.

On Monday, Mr. Zeroual announced that tough new measures will be introduced shortly to strengthen the crackdown "until terrorism is eradicated," but gave no details of the moves.

The GIA bulletin claimed responsibility for the assassination on Dec. 3 of a 24th journalist, Said Mekbel, the editor of the daily Le Matin, saying two "fighters" had shot "two bullets into his head full of illwill and ignorance."

It also said the movement had killed "debauched women who refuse to wear the Islamic veil and continue to go to school," in a reference to the slaying of an adolescent and the wounding of nine other people in a machine-gun attack on a school last week.



Abdullah Toukan (left), Jordanian delegation chief, and David Ivry, his Israeli counterpart Tuesday attend in Tunis the opening of the 6th session of multilateral Middle East arms talks. The three-day session grouping 40 delegations will study a declaration of principles for arms control and security in the Middle East and the creation of a conflict prevention centre (see story below) (AFP photo)

Israel planning more Jewish settlements on expropriated Arab land in Jerusalem

From the Jerusalem Post

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Plans for massive Jewish housing construction between the new Shuafat Ridge neighbourhood and the Atarot industrial zone in northern Jerusalem have been formulated by the municipality, according to City Hall sources.

The area, annexed in 1967, is one of the largest pieces of undeveloped land in the city. Last summer, the 6,000 dunums of land were barred for development by residents of adjoining Shuafat and Beit Hanina.

At the time, it was charged that the city planned to expropriate the land, as it had done with areas to the east on which the neighbourhoods of Pisgat Ze'ev and Neveh Ya'acov were built.

The plan, a map of which was obtained by The Jerusalem Post, appears to confirm these fears.

"You know what a sandwich is? That's going to happen here. The Arab neigh-

bourhoods will be sandwiched by Jewish neighbourhoods," said one source. He noted that the municipality has prevented the growth of Arab neighbourhoods in other areas by building Jewish neighbourhoods adjacent to them.

The map, compiled for the municipality by leading Jerusalem planner Yoram Gadish, shows the land taken out of jurisdiction of the two Arab neighbourhoods as it is zoned to allow for construction, but does not specify that it is to be used exclusively for Jewish development.

But the municipal sources said that the intent was clearly for Jewish development, largely housing.

"This doesn't surprise me at all," said Beit Hanina community council chairman Mohammad Masri. "We all expected this to happen when we saw that they not only prevented us from building on the land, but also took it out of our jurisdiction."

"We are already being choked on the west by Pisgat

Ze'ev, now we are going to be choked from the other side," he said.

Outgoing city engineer Gadi Brandes declined to comment on the plan. He said he was not personally aware of it, but that it may have been considered by other officials.

The municipal sources also emphasised that the plan has yet to be adopted by City Hall, although its placement in city records means it is being taken seriously.

The start of construction, even if the plan is accepted, would take some time, the sources added. A lengthy rezoning process would be needed, and the government would have to initiate expropriation measures, as some of the land is owned by Arabs.

Such a process, however, is not unprecedented, with work expected to begin soon on the south Jerusalem neighbourhood of Har Homa, on rezoned land largely expropriated from Arabs.

Hamas: Libya expelling Palestinian families

DAMASCUS (R) — The Hamas Islamic resistance group said Tuesday at least two children had died at the Egyptian border after Libya expelled Palestinian families.

The militant Palestinian group, which opposes the PLO's peace deal with Israel, said in a statement released to Reuters in Damascus that "tens of Palestinian families are stranded on the Libyan-Egyptian border after the Libyan authorities expelled them."

It said two children had died during the last two days due to bad weather conditions and that Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh met the Libyan ambassador in Amman to

discuss the situation.

"Ghosheh expressed Hamas's understanding of the Libyan political position which is aimed at revealing the reality of the Palestinian self-rule authority which has no ability to allow the entry of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland."

"But Ghosheh affirmed that the Palestinian people and their children should not pay the price of this. They should be supported and honoured and not be subjected to suffering."

The statement said Mr. Ghosheh affirmed that Hamas was following up closely the issue of uprooted families and had a "keen interest in ending

their agonies immediately."

Hamas belongs to a 10-member radical Palestinian alliance which is opposed to the PLO-Israeli peace deal which gave Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Libya also opposes the PLO-Israeli peace deal and has been expelling Palestinians to show that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has no authority to let them into Gaza.

Hamas has said it sees the Libyan action as a political gesture against Mr. Arafat and not one directed at those expelled.

'Militants trade marriage for dynamite'

CAIRO (AFP) — Islamic militants in Egypt recruited women by promising marriage if they would help them hide weapons and explosives, newspapers reported here Tuesday.

Jihan Ibrahim, the wife of a militant, confessed that she promised veiled women a husband from the outlawed Jamaa Islamiyya group if they hid arms "to be used in terrorist attacks," said the newspaper quoted an anonymous judge.

Ms. Ibrahim also said she did not have any children because her husband, Abul Elah Abdel Rabbo, "was too busy with terrorist activities," the reports said.

Abdel Rabbo is currently serving a 15-year prison term, and his wife has been placed under preventive detention for 15 days for "belonging to an illegal organisation and possessing arms and explosives."

Another woman from the fundamentalist Jamaa, Nagwa Abdel Rahman, was also placed under detention for hiding and transporting explosives to militants under orders from her fiancé Hassan Saleh.

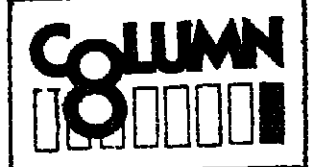
Newspapers said she had been introduced to her fiancé by Ms. Ibrahim. Mr. Saleh was killed recently by police.

Nearly 530 people have been killed in a campaign launched in March 1992 by Muslim militants to topple President Hosni Mubarak's secular government.

Meanwhile, suspected Muslim extremists Tuesday attacked a train carrying prisoners in southern Egypt, killing a policeman and injuring a civilian.

The attack brought the death toll in this week's violence between police and suspected militants in southern Egypt to eight on both sides.

The train came under fire while standing still at the railway station of Nag Hammadi in the upper Egypt governorate of Qena.



British worker wins £18 million in lottery

LONDON (R) — A northern English factory worker with a wife and three children has won Britain's £18 million (\$27 million) lottery jackpot, the country's biggest ever gambling prize. Lottery organisers said the man, who will be ranked alongside Britain's Queen Elizabeth in terms of wealth, wished to remain anonymous and had appealed for privacy. "At first he could not believe he had won but as the news sunk in the burst into tears of relief and joy," Camelot spokesman David Rigg said. The winner was planning a celebration holiday with his family, but would donate a large sum to charity, Mr. Rigg said. Britain's racy tabloid newspapers have been offering large rewards for names of winners since the National Lottery — the country's first since 1826 — seized attention with televised draws a month ago. This week's jackpot was swelled by a "rollover" in cash from last week's unclaimed \$6.9 million (\$10.8 million) top prize and sent millions of last-minute enthusiasts flocking to local shops to buy tickets. The winning ticket was one of 61.5 million sold to Britain's population of 58 million. The government has warned breaches of lottery secrecy will be investigated and punished. But lottery fever has hit the country's elected lawmakers, who want lottery ticket machines inside parliament, so they too will have the chance to win. The government is considering the request.

U.K. parliament probes intruders

LONDON (R) — Guardians of Britain's parliament said Tuesday they were investigating how three laughing intruders, including a ruling Conservative Party aide, got into the private office of opposition Labour leader Tony Blair. The Conservative deputy whose aide was involved said the man, a researcher, was lost and apologised to Mr. Blair. But the intrusion looks set to provide more ammunition for Labour to attack Prime Minister John Major's beleaguered government. The three were caught last Friday night by a member of Mr. Blair's staff in his darkened rooms in the neo-gothic Palace of Westminster which houses parliament. Fears of a scandalous plot to pry on the popular Labour leader receded as it appeared unlikely there had been criminal intent or a break-in. The group had been in a bar in parliament prior to the incident. "No crime took place. The police are not involved," a police spokeswoman said.

'Hollywood Madam's jurors admit misconduct'

LOS ANGELES (R) — A defence lawyer for reputed Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss complained of possible misconduct by jurors who convicted her on prostitution-related charges and suggested that she should receive a new trial. Attorney Anthony Brooklier said he would file "a major significant" motion in the case, reportedly seeking to have her conviction thrown out because jurors admitted discussing the case outside of court before reaching a verdict. If true, the admissions could constitute misconduct and result in a new trial for Ms. Fleiss, who faces a mandatory sentence of at least three years in prison after being convicted on Dec. 2 on three counts of pandering.

Quintuplets born in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AFP) — A woman from Ohio gave birth to quintuplets Monday — three girls and two boys — after having resorted to in vitro fertilisation to become pregnant. Mary Scott, 32, was doing fine following the birth by Caesarean section at Ohio State Medical Centre, but the condition of the quintuplets was not immediately available, a hospital spokesman said. The quintuplets weighed ranged from 0.52 kilograms (1.15 pounds) to 1.3 kilograms (two pounds nine ounces), the spokesman said.

French police launch raids in hunt for Islamic group

PARIS (R) — Police detained several Algerians in southern France Tuesday in a hunt for suspected guerrillas involved in an August attack on a hotel in Morocco in which two Spanish tourists died, local officials said.

A spokeswoman for the prefect — the central government representative — in Avignon said police raided the homes of four Algerian families near the town of Carpentras in the Vaucluse region.

"Police are looking for information on the members of an Islamic network who may be on the run in France after the Morocco attack," the spokeswoman said.

Police were acting on a warrant issued by Paris anti-terrorist investigating magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere, on suspicion that the families were linked to criminal conspiracy of a guerrilla nature.

In an unconfirmed report, LCI television said several members of an Algerian family to shopkeepers were taken in for questioning in Carpentras.

Gunmen killed the two Spanish tourists in a robbery at a luxury hotel in the southern Moroccan city of Marrakesh in August.

Relations between Algeria and Morocco soured after the shooting and the subsequent arrest of eight suspects in

Tunisia slams Syria, Lebanon for boycotting multilateral talks

TUNIS (AFP) — Tunisia slammed Syria and Lebanon on Tuesday for boycotting a session of multilateral Middle East talks on security and disarmament here.

Tunisian delegation chief Ahmad Ouannes said that their absence made the session "incomplete."

The two countries are boycotting the multilateral track of the peace process until their bilateral negotiations with Israel bear fruit.

The head of the U.S. delegation, Robert Einhorn, spoke of the difficulties in Syrian-Israeli talks, which are stalled over the terms of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized from Syria in 1967.

After halting Israel's peace accord with the Palestinians and Jordan, Mr. Einhorn said relentless efforts were being made to break the deadlock with Syria.

Mr. Einhorn, a senior State Department official, said the Middle East peace process was at a "critical point."

The three-day session here grouping 40 delegations will study a declaration of principles for arms control and security in the Middle East, and the creation of a conflict prevention centre.

A telecommunications network for the exchange of information will also be discussed.

Oleg Sokolov, head of the Russian delegation, said he expected concrete results from the talks.

The declaration of principles was rejected by several Arab countries at the last session of talks in Qatar in May, after they claimed Israel was trying to profit through its political talks.

Before the Tunis talks, opened Egypt said it would raise the issue of Israel's alleged nuclear arsenal.

Israel, which has never confirmed press reports that it has 100 nuclear warheads, has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, unlike most Arab states.

"Egypt cannot accept that

Israel's nuclear programme is outside any international control, because that leads to a military imbalance and paves the way to an arms race in the Middle East," said Nabil Fahmi, head of the Egyptian delegation.

"Why allow one country in the region military supremacy when we have launched a peace process in the region which is going quite well?" said Mr. Fahmi, a foreign ministry advisor.

He urged Israel to "reassure Arab countries and adopt a positive position."

The arms talks are one of five multilateral tracks of the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991, jointly sponsored by the United States and Russia.

Multilateral talks on refugees opened Tuesday in the Turkish capital Ankara.

The three-day talks grouping 40 countries will study a Turkish project on training for Palestinians in refugee camps, and other issues such as public health and the reunification of families.

S. Arabia: Iraqi recognition of Kuwait a positive step

CASABLANCA (AFP) — Saudi Arabia said Tuesday other Muslim countries should take note of Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, de-

scribing it as a start towards peace in the Gulf region.

In a slight softening of Riyadh's position towards Baghdad, Saudi Foreign

Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) should "take account of the change evident in Iraq's position through the implementation of certain U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Prince Saud was speaking to reporters here shortly before the opening of a summit meeting of the 51-member OIC (see page 1).

He said Baghdad's recognition of Kuwait Nov. 10 was "a starting point confirming Iraq's readiness for peace."

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